



Daily Report —

East Asia

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Japan

Minister Calls for U.S. Agricultural Talks
OW050347 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—Japan wants to hold trade talks with the U.S. as soon as possible to discuss a long-standing U.S. demand that it completely scrap its import restrictions on beef and oranges, Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato said Friday.

He told a press conference following a Cabinet meeting that Japan has not yet received a U.S. reply to its proposal that the two nations start the trade talks in the second week of February.

Sato also said Japan wants to set an early date for talks on a U.S. demand that it liberalize imports of 10 agricultural products.

Economic Sanctions Said Unlikely for DPRK
OW051038 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—A high-level Foreign Ministry official suggested Friday that Japan will not take economic sanctions against North Korea for its alleged involvement in the bombing of a Korean Air jetliner last November that claimed 115 lives.

The official, who requested anonymity, was commenting on a U.S. House of Representatives resolution adopted Thursday, which called on Japan and Western European countries to suspend trade with North Korea.

The House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee headed by Democrat Stephen Solarz condemned North Korea for bombing the South Korean plane and unanimously adopted the resolution calling for sanctions at a public hearing.

"Japan has taken what the government believed proper (punitive) measures against North Korea," on January 26, the official said.

The Japanese sanctions included a stringent restriction of contacts between Japanese diplomats and North Korean officials in third countries and a ban on the entry of North Korean officials' into Japan. No economic sanctions were imposed.

In any case, the official said, he had taken note of the American resolution.

The U.S. Government on January 20 designated North Korea as a state sponsoring terrorism under the Export Administration Act that requires approval of exports by the Congress.

Japan's overall trade with North Korea diminished from 465.2 million dollars in 1982 to 357.2 million dollars in 1986 although it saw a temporary rise by 26.5 million dollars to 426.4 million dollars in 1985, according to government figures.

Foreign Minister To Visit Southeast Asia, PRC
OW031227 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT
3 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno is expected to visit Indonesia, Malaysia and China from late April to early May in order to promote friendly ties, a high-level Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Uno's Asian tour will coincide with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's planned visit to major Western European capitals. Japanese cabinet members usually go abroad during this period every year, which includes three national holidays, and Diet business is in near recess.

The Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said China has invited Uno to visit Beijing in early May to meet with his counterpart Wu Xueqian.

The Japan-China foreign ministerial meeting was held in October 1985 in Beijing and in April 1986 in Tokyo between Wu and then Japanese Foreign Minister Shin-taro Abe.

Uno also met with former Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari in 1986 and 1987 in New York when the United Nations General Assembly meeting was held.

The official said Uno is also expected to visit Indonesia and Malaysia before going to Beijing in late April or early May.

Uno will also go to Thailand in early July for talks with foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which links Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

ASEAN foreign ministers are meeting in Bangkok on July 4-5 and with their counterparts from Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community a few days later.

Since assuming the post last November, Uno visited Manila with Prime Minister Takeshita in December to attend the summit conference of ASEAN.

ROK To Set Up Joint Antiterrorism Council
OW041405 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The government decided Thursday to establish a joint Japan-South Korea liaison council for safety measures on the occasion of the Seoul Summer Olympic Games, government sources said.

The two countries will formally agree to the plan when Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita visits Seoul to attend new president No Tae-u's swearing-in ceremony on February 25 and talk with No and other South Korean leaders.

Sakutarō Tanino, counselor at the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, is expected to head the Japanese side in the planned liaison council while his South Korean counterpart will lead the Korean side, the sources said.

The council will consist of division chiefs from the four Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Transport and Finance and the National Police Agency, they said.

Its first meeting is expected to take place in March and it will hold regular sessions once a month, the sources said.

The council members will study the tightening of entry checks to Seoul, tighter checks on aircraft and ships, closer exchanges of information about the Japanese Red Army and other terrorists and measures against forged passports, the sources said.

Uno Seeks Israeli 'Restraint' in West Bank
OW041345 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno said Thursday Japan will again urge Israel on Friday to try its best to end clashes with Palestinians in the Israeli-held Gaza strip and West Bank.

Uno said in a statement that he sent a message the same day to his Egyptian counterpart 'Abd al-Majid, in which he said Japan supports Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's peace initiative to end the Mideast conflict.

The foreign minister said he has instructed Takashi Onda, director general of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, to summon on Friday Israeli Ambassador to Tokyo Ya'aqov Cohen and calls for the country's efforts to improve the situation in the two occupied areas. The action is in response to Israeli military action against Palestinian demonstrators on Monday that reportedly resulted in civilian casualties.

On January 18, Japan urged Israel to exercise self-restraint in the occupied regions and to abide by the 1949 Geneva accord banning deportations of residents from such areas.

Uno also said Japan continues to support a proposal to hold an international conference to end conflicts in the Mideast put forward by five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China—as well as Israel, Jordan and Syria.

The foreign minister also said Japan will join the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) in its effort to help improve economic and social conditions of the Palestinians in the two areas. Japan has allocated 1 million dollars for the cause in the 1988 draft budget now under consideration by Japanese lawmakers.

Issues Official Request
OW050611 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—Japan issued a new request Friday to exercise self-restraint in the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Foreign Ministry officials said. [sentence as received]

The officials said the request followed disturbances in which Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded three others.

Takakazu Kuriyama, deputy foreign minister, made the request to Israeli Ambassador to Tokyo Ya'aqov Cohen in a meeting at the ministry.

The officials quoted Kuriyama as telling Cohen that Japan deplored the Israeli Government's undemocratic action in the two regions which had continued despite repeated condemnations by the United Nations Security Council against Israeli actions and an earlier Japanese request made January 18 for Israel to show self-restraint.

He again called on Israel to exercise self-restraint and abide by the 1949 Geneva accord banning deportations of residents in occupied areas, according to the officials who briefed reporters.

Israel deported four Palestinians to Lebanon recently.

Kuriyama said the disturbances have resulted from the Israeli occupation of the two regions and also from the fact that there are no fair, long-term comprehensive peace agreements to end the strife.

He asked for Israel to take a more flexible attitude toward a proposed world peace conference to end the conflict.

Kuriyama told Cohen that Japan supports the promotion of the international conference and also backs Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's peace initiative.

Cohen said he would convey the Japanese request to his home government. He said it is necessary for concerned countries to continue talks in a constructive way.

Police Follow Lead on KAL Bomber's Education
OW051230 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Kumamoto, Feb. 5 KYODO—Local police Friday received a tip that Kim Sung-il, 70, suspected of involvement in the bombing of a Korean Air (KAL) airliner last November which took 115 lives, studied at a professional school here for two years in the early 1950s.

According to police, an official of the school reported that Kim moved to Tokyo after attending the school between 1950 and 1952 under the Japanese name of Yukio Osawa.

Kim, who had a wife and four children, was quoted as telling his teacher that Osawa was a false name and that he was a Korean, police said.

Police are trying confirm the information.

The local chapter of the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan denied the allegation, saying it was a manipulation of information.

A female suspect Kim Hyon-hui, 26, who confessed to helping plant a bomb board the KAL plane that disappeared last November near the Thai-Burmese border, reportedly said her male companion Kim Sung-il had lived in Kumamoto for some time up to about 10 years ago.

Kim Sung-il committed suicide by swallowing poison in Bahrain December 1 while being questioned by Bahrain authorities.

Intermediaries Facilitate PRC-ROK Trade
OW051351 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—China and South Korea are already conducting a brisk direct trading with each other through the intermediary of trading houses in Japan and other third countries, trading sources said Friday.

This indicates the possibility of the two countries establishing formal trade ties in the not-too-distant future.

The bilateral trade in 1987 is estimated at just over 1.1 billion dollars, up about 80 percent from the previous year.

Direct trade is presumed to have accounted for more than half of the total, according to major Japanese trading houses.

The coming Summer Olympic Games in Seoul is expected to be followed by a further sharp rise in trade between the two countries.

A senior executive of a Japanese trading concern, noting the difficulty of statistically tracking the bilateral trade, said there is even the possibility that the trade between China and South Korea has already reached "several billion dollars."

The bilateral trade has so far been thought to be conducted only indirectly via Hong Kong — starting in the 1980s against the backdrop of China's switch to an "open-door" policy.

In the indirect trade, goods of China and South Korea are marked as destined for Hong Kong and then reexported to the other from there.

Direct trade was made impossible by China's refusal to accept goods accompanied by shipping documents issued by South Korea.

It has recently become possible, however, to obtain shipping documents of South Korea and a third country at the same time, and to have a ship carrying the goods proceed directly to China without stopping in the third country, the sources said.

Ships sailing from South Korea can now call at Chinese ports with the tacit consent of the Chinese authorities, they said.

Among South Korea's main exports to China are clothing, electrical appliances and paper, while China mainly exports raw cotton and coal to South Korea.

Japanese trading houses are considered to be handling about 20 percent of the total trade between the two countries, especially South Korean exports to China.

DPRK Ship Leaves Yokohama for Niigata
OW041355 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Yokohama, Feb. 4 KYODO—A North Korean cargo-passenger ship left Yokohama port for Niigata amid heavy police guard Thursday after calling at the port for four days.

The 3,573-ton Mangyongbong-ho was seen off at the port by about 50 Korean residents of Japan.

All 89 crewmen stayed aboard the ship during the port-call as they were barred from landing following Japan's sanctions against North Korea for its alleged involvement in the loss of a South Korean jetliner last November.

The ship, an irregular liner linking Japan and North Korea since 1972, will arrive at Niigata port Saturday via the Strait of Tsugaru between Honshu and Hokkaido.

The ship will then return to Wonsan, North Korea, from Niigata with a cargo of miscellaneous goods.

El Salvador To Receive Special Fund Loan
OW051356 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—El Salvador will become the first recipient of the World Bank's Japan Special Fund (JSF) recently created by Japan as part of its 30 billion dollar recycling program for developing countries, Japanese officials said Friday.

The fund will provide an interest-free 10 million dollar loan to the Central American country for its rehabilitation program in the wake of a recent earthquake there, the officials said.

Under the agreement generally reached between the Finance Ministry and the World Bank, the loan will be extended by the end of June, they said.

The latest loan will be included as part of the country's 100 million dollar recovery plan.

Rightists Protest Teachers' Convention
OW311241 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT
31 Jan 88

[Text] Fukushima, Jan. 31 KYODO—Several hundred rightists from across the nation arrived here Sunday in some 250 vans mounted with loudspeakers blaring slogans and marching songs on the eve of a planned convention of the leftist Japan Teachers' Union (Nikk-yoso).

Police said an estimated 800 members representing over 100 right-wing groups ringed the site around the convention hall with an estimated 250 vans in an attempt to disrupt the planned convention, police said.

Authorities said they arrested three rightists for disorderly conduct and issued warnings to 259 others for disturbing the peace with excessively noisy loudspeakers.

Some 4,000 riot policemen have been placed on alert around the convention site and checkpoints have been set up along the Tohoku expressway leading into the city in order to prevent traffic from becoming paralyzed by additional convoys of vans expected to arrive when the meeting opens Monday.

Two Largest Trade Unions To Merge in 1989
OW030959 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT
3 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan's two largest labor organizations, Rengo and Sohyo, agreed Wednesday to unify the country's labor front in the Fall of 1989, labor sources said Wednesday.

The agreement was reached in a meeting of the two labor bodies' leaders. Rengo President Toshibumi Tateyama and Sohyo leader Takeshi Kurokawa were among them.

Rengo, or the Japanese Private-Sector Trade Union Confederation, was formed in November and has an estimated 5.3 million members.

Sohyo, the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan, has an estimated 4 million workers, mainly in the public sector.

Labor Leader To Seek 'Sharp' Wage Increases
OW040445 Tokyo KYODO in English
0429 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Labor leader Takeshi Kurokawa vowed Thursday to seek a sharp increase in wages in the annual spring labor offensive which is expected to climax in April.

Kurokawa, head of the leading labor organization Sohyo, said Japanese corporations are posting profits and increasing output and investments while the country's economy is expanding.

He spoke at the opening of a two-day extraordinary session of Sohyo, the general council of trade unions of Japan, which comprises 4.07 million workers, mainly in the public sector.

Sohyo, once the largest labor organization, is now overwhelmed by Rengo, the 5.3 million strong Japanese private-sector trade union confederation which was launched by private-sector workers only last November.

Sohyo provides the main base of support for the no. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party.

Kurokawa accused the leading management body Nikkeiren, Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, of trying to curb wage hikes for workers.

The management is attempting to oppose wage hikes although pay increases will help raise people's consumption and will eventually lead to an expansion of domestic demand as called for from abroad, he said.

Last year, private-sector workers received a mere 8,275 yen or 3.56 percent wage increase on average chiefly because of the yen's rise in value which strongly hit export-dependent industries, according to Labor Ministry figures.

The 1987 percentage was the lowest ever since the ministry began compiling such statistics in 1965.

Kurokawa declared that Sohyo will fight government moves to levy a new indirect tax, and added that his labor organization would ask Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to dissolve the House of Representatives for a general election if he proposes it officially.

Kurokawa proposed to unify the labor front in the fall of 1989 by dissolving Sohyo to merge with Rengo. On Wednesday, top leaders of both organizations met and agreed to achieve the labor reorganization by 1989.

JSP leader Takako Doi, speaking as a guest to the convention, joined Kurokawa in calling for a general election.

Doi said Takeshita and his Liberal Democratic Party should submit themselves to the rest of public opinion if they renege on a 1985 promise "not to levy a comprehensive and universal indirect tax in the manner of fishermen casting a net."

The JSP chairwoman, urging the Japan Communist Party to suspend criticism of other opposition parties, called for all opposition forces to unite and jointly confront the government and LDP.

Meanwhile, the president of Rengo, Toshifumi Tateyama, who was also a guest speaker, told the convention that his organization and Sohyo should merge on an equal footing.

Tateyama proposed to launch a Rengo-Sohyo joint drive to shorten working hours and to win a sharp tax reduction.

North Korea

Menetrey's Remarks on Olympics Criticized
SK050443 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2150 GMT 4 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 5 February commentary: "An Extremely Dangerous Attempt To Build Up Arms"]

[Text] On 3 February, Menetrey, the person who holds the title of commander of the U.S. imperialist troops of aggression that occupy South Korea, heaped bellicose and outrageous words during a so-called luncheon with reporters.

He stated that the United States will increase its armed forces on the Korean peninsula and in neighboring areas in connection with the Olympics and that it will increase naval and air presence in particular.

Of course, this is not the first time the United States has said such things. It was not on just a couple of occasions that the U.S. imperialists have babbled about the need to increase their military assistance to South Korea under the pretext of ensuring safety for the Olympics. Already in May last year, the U.S. imperialists hatched a plot with the puppets to bring a large amount of new ammunition into South Korea this year and keep the U.S. Pacific Fleet deployed in the waters off South Korea, babbling about ensuring a successful hosting of the Olympics. Early in October last year, they announced their plan to further intensify special military assistance to South Korea and reaffirmed it.

The person holding the title of U.S. assistant secretary of defense, who snuck into South Korea last year, also babbled that the United States was willing to mobilize all manner of human and material resources not only of ground forces, but also of the Navy and Air Force, if necessary, for a successful operation.

Timed to coincide with the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets beginning in early February, the person holding the title of commander of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, who executes this war exercise on the spot, has once again confirmed a plan to build up arms by taking advantage of the Olympics.

In fact, this indicates that they intend to keep the vast armed forces to be mobilized for the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise from military bases in the continental United States and the Pacific stationed in South Korea even after the war exercise and to turn South Korea into a stage dominated by these aggressive forces by bringing more new forces into South Korea under the pretext of the Olympics.

The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to build up arms by making bad use of the Olympics can never be tolerated as they are a reckless act that aggravates tension on the Korean peninsula and increases the danger of war.

The list of sporting events in the Olympics does not include a show of force, aerial combat, or fleet exercise. To attempt to increase the U.S. forces on a large scale under the pretext of the Olympics means to say that they would hold the international sporting events amid the threat of gunfire and power reeking. This entirely runs counter to the ideals of the Olympics, which are held to promote peace and friendship.

While frantically accelerating their military buildup and war commotion in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have spread propaganda so as to make their military

buildup and war commotion appear to be necessary because of somebody else's disruption of the Olympics. This is a preposterous and brazen ruse.

As is widely known to the world, in a bid to solve the issue of the 24th Olympics in a way that corresponds to common national interests, we put forward a proposal for the North and the South to cohost the Olympics and have exerted every possible sincere effort to realize it.

This year, as well, we put forward a proposal on convening a North-South joint conference to discuss and solve at an early date such issues as halting large-scale military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, arranging the multinational disarmament talks, and discontinuing to hurl abuse and slander at each other, along with the issue of cohosting the Olympics.

It is not us, but the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets who jeopardize the safety of the Olympics. South Korea is commonly recognized as a U.S. nuclear base, the largest in the Far East, which is densely populated with about 1,000 pieces of nuclear weaponry, as well as the world's most dangerous source of nuclear war.

They have attempted to kick up the commotion of a large-scale war exercise on such a nuclear powder keg by mobilizing vast forces and, not content with this, to push the situation toward the brink of war by introducing more new armed forces. What is this but an act to undermine the safety of the Olympics?

Whatever trick they may employ, the U.S. imperialists can never camouflage their criminal intention to accelerate their preparations for a war of northward invasion by increasing their aggressive forces under the pretext of ensuring the safety of the Olympics and to maintain and prolong their colonial rule by subduing the South Korean people's anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle by force.

The maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets who are making bad use of the Olympics for their insidious political purposes will never be spared denunciation at home and abroad.

KCNA on Menetrey's Comments
SK050447 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0435 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—"Commander of the South Korea-U.S. combined forces" Menetrey, talking about somebody's obstruction of the "Seoul Olympics," said that the U.S. Navy and Air Force would be reinforced around the Korean peninsula.

He was speaking at a press conference in Seoul on February 3, according to a report.

This is a challenge to the DPRK which has repeatedly put forward most reasonable proposals and ways to remove North-South military confrontation, ease the tension and open a new phase for national reconciliation and unity and made persevering efforts to carry them into effect. It is also a brigandish outburst to threaten somebody with reinforcement of aggression forces and intensive preparations for another war.

The U.S. war-mongers' commitment to arms buildup under the pretext of the Olympics shows that they are regarding the Olympics not as a festival of peace but as a tool for "justifying" their policy of aggression and war. This gives rise to great indignation among the world's peaceloving people.

While stepping up arms buildup and war provocation moves, the U.S. imperialists intend to threaten the DPRK. But, nobody will be frightened.

We are closely watching with heightened vigilance every movement of the aggressors.

U.S.-Japan Military Exercises Viewed
SK050835 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "What Are the Joint Military Exercises Aimed at?"]

[Text] The military collusion between the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries have recently been further intensified, and their new war provocation maneuvers are extremely straining the situation on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding areas.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries, last January alone, conducted a joint war exercise of a staff command exercise called "Yamazakura-13" for about 10 days mobilizing thousands of troops in Hokkaido, which is near the Korean peninsula. In Yamaguchi Prefecture, they conducted a joint air force war exercise over 5 days, mobilizing many planes.

In addition to these military exercises in January, the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are planning to continue war exercises in February as well. According to a report, the U.S. Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force will conduct a special joint mine sweeping exercise west of the Inland Sea from 15 to 27 February. This war exercise is expected to be conducted in a real wartime atmosphere with the participation of various war means, such as dozens of warships, including minesweepers, and P-3C antisubmarine planes.

This is a reckless military move that endangers the peace and security of the East Asian region. It is part of the military maneuvers to complete the aggressive triangular military alliance system against our country and other socialist countries.

Today, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to realize their aggressive ambitions by actively drawing Japan into their Asian and Pacific strategy, and the Japanese reactionaries are attempting to realize their ambition for overseas expansion with the backing of the U.S. imperialists by actively participating in the U.S. imperialists' war policy. For this reason, the Japanese reactionaries allow the entire area of Japan, from its northern tip to its southern tip, to be used as sites for aggressive military exercises, massively mobilizing aggressive armed forces. The U.S. imperialists, on the other hand, continuously conduct joint military exercises to use the Japanese territories as a launching pad, transmission base, and supply base in a new aggressive war and to use the Japanese armed forces as shock troops.

The U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are concentrating the spearhead of their aggressive armed forces' attack on Korea. The U.S.-Japanese joint military exercises frequently conducted in Japan and the surrounding areas are designed mainly to prepare for the war of aggression against Korea. This is well shown by the "Yamazakura-13" war exercise conducted in Hokkaido in which thousands of troops were mobilized and the joint air force war exercise conducted in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Hokkaido and Yamaguchi Prefecture are located near the Korean peninsula, and moreover, Hokkaido has a similar climate and physical features to our country. It is self-explanatory why the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries should frequently conduct large-scale joint military exercises in these areas.

The U.S.-Japanese joint military exercises are connected to the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises, and through these, under the direction of the U.S. imperialists, the military consolidation among the United States, Japan, and South Korea are pushed ahead and the triangular operational system is strengthened. It is far from an accidental coincidence in timing that the special joint mine sweeping exercise of the U.S. Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense unit which is supposed to be conducted beginning 15 February will be held concurrently with the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise. The U.S. imperialists are planning to conduct a U.S.-Japanese joint military exercise concurrently with their massive dispatch and deployment of their vast aggressive armed forces from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region to ensure the military consolidation among the United States, Japan, and South Korea under their command and to enhance its combat operational capabilities. This is nothing less than a joint military exercise of the United States, Japan, and South Korea, and means that the triangular military alliance is in fact in operation.

The reckless military exercise commotion of the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries is a vicious challenge to all the Korean people and the Asian people who desire the alleviation of tension and peace. If they think that they can frighten someone by strength, they

are making a gross miscalculation. The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries should clearly know that they will gain nothing from the reckless war maneuvers and should act with discretion.

Daily Denounces Anti-Cuba Smear Campaign
SK050503 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0447 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The U.S. allegation that human rights are being violated in Cuba is a gross distortion of facts, and it is part of the anti-Cuban activities.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed commentary on the false statement made by the U.S. delegate on the threshold of an annual meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Committee to the effect that "human rights are being violated in Cuba."

The commentary says:

Cuba is a dignified socialist state which is advancing under the banner of independence in the Western Hemisphere. In Cuba the working people are the master of state power and their human rights are highly respected. The Cuban people are closely united around the communist party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro.

The United States, talking about "human rights" in Cuba, foolishly tries to spoil the image of socialist Cuba, defame her international prestige and undermine the unity of the Cuban people.

The U.S. argument about human rights in Cuba is outrageous in itself. The United States is not entitled to talk about human rights in other countries. In the United States human rights and dignity are most harshly violated in the world. The U.S. argument about "human rights" is precisely the other side of the theory of racial discrimination.

Racial discrimination and maltreatment against black people and native Indians are the worst in American society.

The U.S. imperialists are heinous racists who pursue the most cruel policy of racial discrimination in the world. It is not difficult to guess what they seek, taking issue with Cuba. By spreading false rumours at the international forum, the United States intends to isolate Cuba and dull the sharp criticism of it by world public.

This is a height of folly.

Since the victory of the Cuban revolution, the U.S. imperialists have desperately worked to stifle and blockade Cuba. Those efforts, however, ended with a bitter

setback on the part of U.S. imperialism each time. The Cuban revolution is forging ahead victoriously and the international authority and prestige of Cuba are on a steady rise.

The U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuban smear campaign does not work anywhere.

Dailies Mark Anniversary of Ties With Benin
SK050505 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0453 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today dedicate signed articles to the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Benin.

Pointing out that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Benin became a meaningful milestone in the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples, the signed article of NODONG SINMUN says:

The past 15 years were years of the constant development of friendly relations between the DPRK and BENIN. In particular, meetings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung and respected President Mathieu Kerekou twice in Pyongyang marked an epochal occasion in strengthening and developing the friendship between the DPRK and Benin.

Today the cooperative relations between the peoples of the two countries are being expanded and developed in various domains.

The Benin people are achieving great successes in the endeavours for strengthening national unity and building the independent national economy, following the road of socialist development under the correct leadership of President Mathieu Kerekou.

The Government and people of Benin are developing friendly relations with non-aligned countries on the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefits and striving for the complete liberation of Africa.

The Korean people will make efforts to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries in the idea of independence, friendship and peace.

Liaison Committee for Reunification To Meet
SK050433 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea on February 4 issued a communique on the convocation of an enlarged meeting of its executive committee.

The communique said:

The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea will sponsor an enlarged meeting of its executive committee in Vienna, the capital of Austria, over February 5-6, 1988.

The enlarged meeting will discuss the prevailing situation in South Korea and the strengthening of international solidarity with the South Korean people in the anti-U.S. struggle for independence and anti-fascist struggle for democracy.

The enlarged meeting will be participated in by the member nations of the executive committee, noted personages from different countries and delegates of international organizations.

International Jurists Criticize Western Media
SK041511 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea recently issued an information denouncing the reptile mass media of the United States and Western countries for prettifying the reactionary nature of the South Korean puppet government and for misleading public opinion.

Noting that the Chong Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group is still pursuing a policy of fascist crackdown on the people in South Korea, the information accused news media of the United States and Western countries of propagandizing as if "democratization" were in the making in South Korea.

The United States answered the fair proposals of the DPRK for olympic co-hosting, establishment of a North-South confederation, opening of tripartite talks, convocation of a North-South joint conference by registering it in a list of "terrorist states," it remarked.

The United States has fabricated or is trying to fabricate various incidents to accuse the DPRK and justify Seoul's "policy," the information said, and noted:

Mud-slinging at the North over the KAL incident with no evidence was just a link in the chain of incidents it planned to fake up before and during the Olympic games. It stressed the need for jurists to pay attention to the moves of the South Korean dictatorial "regime" and Western mass media for misleading public opinion, and to denounce crackdown on democracy and human right violation in South Korea.

It called upon jurists and their organizations of Western countries to lodge protests with the mass media against conspiring in the continued violations of liberties and human rights in South Korea, speaking for the South Korean dictatorial "regime."

'Change' in South Said To Face Protests
*SK040834 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2151 GMT 3 Feb 88*

[NODONG SINMUN 4 February commentary: "A Vicious New Plot for Full-Scale Suppression"]

[Text] In a meeting of the heads of the Public Prosecutor's Office held on 1 February, the puppet Ministry of Justice hatched a plot to put society in order with the inauguration of the so-called new government approaching.

In this meeting, such hangmen as the justice minister and the prosecutor general noisily stressed the need for the officials under their command to redouble their effort to maintain law and order. The meeting adopted the full mobilization of power available to the prosecutors for the suppression of the left-leaning procommunist forces as the basic course of action this year.

It is widely known that traitor No Tae-u has recently urged his high-ranking followers to counter thoroughly the maneuvers of the insidious forces and the acts of disruption with his own inauguration ceremony and the National Assembly election just around the corner. Following this, such caudillos of suppression as the home affairs minister clamored in rapid succession about the need to scrape out the factors that destabilize society and rid society of left-leaning procommunist elements.

The facts lay bare and in full view of the vicious plot of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group to swat down the people's struggle against prolonging the military rule with bayonets and stage the farce called a change of government under the pretext of scraping out the left-leaning pro-communist forces.

It is a result of guilty consciences, fear, and anxiety of criminals who have fabricated the prolongation of military rule by challenging the aspirations of the people who called for the establishment of a civilian government that the puppets have become more open in their suppression with traitor No Tae-u's swearing in only 20 days ahead.

If the so-called new No Tae-u regime were not a military dictatorial regime and if it had been fairly elected by popular vote, there would be no reason why the people should rise up in a struggle against it in the wake of the change of government, nor would there be any need for the puppets to issue an order for their suppression.

In fact, traitor No Tae-u's election has been fabricated through the use of government power and fraud against the will of the people. The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring, ignoring the call of the people for the establishment of a pannational neutral cabinet for a fair election, carried out a coup d'état to prolong the military rule under the veil of an election held under the current military dictatorship.

As unanimously asserted by the people and off-stage democratic forces, the election returns have been fabricated through the use of government power, the power of money, and fraud. Even after this, traitor No Tae-u has been branded the president elected by 30 percent of the overall vote in the face of opposition from more than the majority of all voters, becoming the laughing stock of the world's people.

Such being the case, it is natural for the South Korean people to say that they cannot remain mere spectators to traitor No Tae-u's attempt to prolong military rule. The puppets are now seized by fear and uneasiness because of the resolve of the people to struggle.

Although the puppets pay lip service to the need to rid themselves of the insidious and left-leaning pro-communist forces, it is a ruse designed to camouflage their vicious suppressive maneuvers.

The insidious forces and the left-leaning pro-communist forces that the puppets claim to suppress are none other than the patriotic and democratic forces that call for the establishment of a civilian-run government and for turning South Korea into an area governed by independence and democracy, as well as for national reunification, while opposing the prolonging of military rule.

Whatever trick they may employ, the puppets can never hide their criminal attempt to subject the people protesting the prolonging of the military dictatorship to another round of a bloody slaughter operation.

It is the South Korean people's longstanding desire of historical proportions to oppose the military rule, establish a civilian-run government, and enjoy democracy. To attain this, the South Korean people have waged a bloody struggle for the past 40 years and in the process have acquired bone-chilling experiences and fostered a fiery fighting spirit.

No bayonet can thwart the will of the people who are determined to live decent human lives with the spirit of independence.

It is inevitable that the puppets' game called the change of government will face the people's protests.

Paper Says 'Suppression' Increases
*SK040503 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0427 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the new order of wholesale crackdown issued by the South Korean puppets on the threshold of the traitor No Tae-u's "inauguration."

The signed commentary recalls that the South Korean puppet ministry of justice on February 1 called together "chiefs of public prosecutor's offices" to discuss "establishment of public order" on the threshold of the "emergence of a new government" and defined as the basic action program for this year "mobilization of all public prosecutors" in the crackdown on "leftist pro-communist forces."

The commentary says:

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group revealed its sinister intention to stage the "change of power" farce after suppressing the people's struggle against extension of the military rule by force of arms under the pretext of "elimination of leftist pro-communist forces."

Just 20 odd days before No's "inauguration," the puppets unsheathed the sword of suppression more undisguisedly. This is because of a guilty conscience and uneasiness of the criminals who faked up his "victory" to extend the military rule in challenge to the people's desire for the establishment of a democratic government.

Their clamour about elimination of "seditious forces" and "leftist pro-communist forces" proceeded from a ruse to justify their vicious crackdown.

With nothing can they conceal their criminal intention to carry out another bloodbath against the people opposed to the extension of the military dictatorship.

It is inevitable that the puppets' "change of power" farce will meet with resistance of the people.

DJP Moves Said To Increase Torture in South
SK041047 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1037 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u on February 2 instructed the "Democratic Justice Party" to conceive a "proposal to encourage morale of police," according to a report.

On the same day the "DJP" hooligans held a "meeting of leading members of the party" at which they decided to frame up a "sub-committee on police issue" with "assemblymen" from police origin.

This is part of criminal moves to further egg the puppet police onto brutal tortures.

The traitor No Tae-u's instruction is aimed at checking vacillation among police and further encouraging it to the suppression of the people to maintain the military dictatorial "regime". But with no moves can the traitor No Tae-u block vacillation among police. And the moves to reduce it to a harsher suppressor will touch off stronger resistance of the people.

Chon Making Last-Ditch 'Fanatic' Efforts
SK051006 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The traitor Chon Tu-hwan on February 2 ordered his underlings to work out a "plan to increase the police force annually," according to a radio report from Seoul.

This reveals his true color as a heinous fascist fanatic who cannot live even a moment without suppressing the people.

Since he usurped the puppet power after the December 12, 1979 "army purge coup" and the 1980 Kwangju bloodbath under the manipulation of U.S. imperialism, Chon Tu-hwan has covered South Korea with a police network in a bid to prop up the colonial fascist rule and arrested, jailed and killed numerous patriots and democrats.

Just before leaving "Chongwadae," the den of treachery, he is now making last-ditch efforts as a fascist fanatic, talking about buildup of police force.

Daily on U.S. Praise of South Election
SK030455 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0440 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—Now the U.S. rulers advertise the traitor No Tae-u's "election as president" as "victory of democracy" in South Korea and assert that the South Korean people should realize they have "achieved most" of democracy through the "elections."

This is a shameless distortion of the reality and a downright insult to and mockery of the South Korean people calling for the termination of the military rule and the establishment of a democratic government, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

The commentary says:

In spite of the "presidential elections" in South Korea, the pro-U.S. military dictatorial "regime" still remains and nothing has changed. If there would be any change in the future, it would be only replacement of the Chon Tu-hwan military dictatorship by the No Tae-u military dictatorship.

The United States across the ocean is impertinently advertising the military dictatorship as "democracy," the dictatorship shunned by the South Korean people. This shows what "democracy" on its lips is like.

It is the chronic bad habit of the United States to unhesitatingly reverse black and white if necessary for its interests.

The United States is embellishing the extension of the military rule by traitor No Tae-u as "democracy," with a view to quelling the South Korean people's struggle and maintaining its colonial rule without a hitch by putting the label of "democracy" on the pro-U.S. military "regime" which it fabricated by dint of frauds, swindle and intrigues.

South Holds Cold Weather War Exercise

SK050439 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The South Korean military fascist clique was reported to have staged another war exercise called "field drill demonstration in cold winter" at a unit of the puppet ground force on February 3.

The puppet clique incited a war fever against the North, talking about "establishment of a perfect plan for winter operation," "intensification of cold-weather endurance" and "maintenance of ever-victorious combat preparedness."

The exercise is part of the frantic military racket of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique in the wake of the announcement of the plan of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal against the North. This shows that their moves to unleash another war are getting all the more serious with each passing day.

NODONG SINMUN on Working With People

SK041045 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article entitled "brilliant embodiment of chuche-oriented idea of party building on work with people".

It says:

It takes an important place in the brilliant achievements made by the Workers' Party of Korea to have brought a revolutionary turn in party work and activity by thoroughly embodying the idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung on making work with people basic to party work.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said: "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung advanced an idea of making work with people basic to party work. This is a great idea which clarifies the fundamental principle of party activity by incorporating the chuche idea in party building. Only by making work with people its key issue, can the

party prevent its work from being reduced to administrative-technical work, and maintain its nature as a political organization and fulfil its militant role and function properly."

What is important in the achievements of our party in developing work with people onto a high stage is that it has clarified correct principles to be maintained in work with people and led them to their successful application.

Our party clarified the valuable guidelines to be held fast to in work with people — the principle of giving priority to work with people in all matters, the principle of strictly subordinating work with people to upholding the leader and remaining boundlessly loyal to his leadership and the principle of revolutionizing and working-classizing all members of the society by doing work with people regularly not in a manner of shock campaign and by way of one man educating ten and ten men educating a hundred.

It is the greatest feat of our party in deepening work with people that it has built up the whole party and the entire people into a pure ideological and purposeful organism which thinks and acts only as required by one idea, the chuche idea, and into a powerful revolutionary rank united as one mind. Our party has also made a great contribution to developing work with people onto a high stage by establishing a well regulated work system whose essence is work with people throughout the party and society.

Under the correct leadership of our party a well regulated work system basic to work with people has been established throughout the party from its Central Committee to its cells, lowest bodies of the party organization. Thereby, today a revolutionary turn is taking place in party work, work with people.

Our party has also established the anti-Japanese guerrilla work method, the most revolutionary work method, throughout the party and society. This is another great feat performed by our party in deepening work with people.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla work method was created and applied in person by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-sung during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. It is a powerful chuche-based work method, the work method of believing in the strength of the popular masses and mobilizing their creative wisdom and activeness to press ahead with the revolution and construction.

Our party has energetically led the efforts to establish the anti-Japanese guerrilla work method. In this course a signal turn has been recorded in all party work, work with people and the party's militant power cemented markedly.

Our party possesses invincible power, high authority and tested leadership ability because it has done well work with people.

VNS Urges Continued Anti-U.S. Struggle
*SK050940 Pyongyang Voice of National
Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0900 GMT 2 Feb
88*

[Undated Voice of Nation: Salvation article from the "Hour for South Korean Youths and Students" program: "Let Us Step Up the Cause of Democratization and Reunification Holding Aloft the Slogan of the Anti-U.S. Struggle for Independence"]

[Text] Our masses who brilliantly adorned last year with the great June resistance—which was unprecedented in the history of national resistance in this country—have entered the new year by vigorously accelerating the struggle for another June resistance, displaying their high fighting spirit. From the beginning of the new year, the voices of the patriotic masses of all walks of life calling for the termination of military rule and for national reunification, rejecting the American imperialist aggressors' domination and interference, and calling for national independence are echoing throughout the country.

This is an expression of our masses' firm will to unfold a new history of independence, democracy, and reunification in this land, a colony, at any cost by liquidating the 40-year occupation by foreign forces, the fascist tyranny, and the tragedy of national division. The short cut leading to the victory of the grand march of justice of our masses, who have traversed the road of trials while sweeping aside foreign forces and the fascist tyranny, lies in holding aloft the slogan of anti-U.S. struggle for independence and in vigorously waging the struggle for democracy and reunification under the banner of this slogan. This is an indispensable requirement, because U.S. imperialism is the basic obstacle to achieving democratization in South Korea and national reunification.

The U.S. strategy toward the Korean Peninsula is to make South Korea a colony and military base permanently. Proceeding from this strategic requirement, the United States has desperately opposed the achievement of democratization in South Korea and reunification of the nation.

Fascism is one of the inherent methods that the American aggressors have employed in dominating and ruling their colonies. The U.S. imperialist aggressors are well aware that apart from fascist rule, the permanent domination and rule of their colonies cannot be contemplated. This is why the United States has never allowed democratic politics in South Korea. The United States has obstructed our masses' struggle for democracy by all means.

Along with this, the United States has turned South Korea into a land barren of human rights, freedom, and democracy through its tamed pro-U.S. military dictators.

The United States is the enemy who has hindered reunification of the Korean peninsula. Taking the two Korea policy as the basis of its policy toward the peninsula, the United States has attempted to maneuver for the simultaneous entry of the North and the South into the United Nations, for the separate entry of the South into the United Nations, and for cross-recognition of the North and the South in a bid to perpetuate the division of the nation.

Along with this, the United States has not only continuously introduced lethal weapons, including nuclear weapons, into South Korea, but has also constantly staged such military exercises for northward invasion as the "Team Spirit" South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise. Thus, it has further aggravated tension between the North and the South. It has not only inspired confrontation between the North and the South by clamoring about anticomunism, but has also hindered our masses' movement for national reunification by all means by manipulating the dictators.

All facts show that the United States is the curse of democratization in South Korea and of national reunification. This is why our masses should vigorously unfold the sacred cause for democracy and reunification while holding aloft the slogan of the anti-U.S. struggle for independence.

Holding aloft the anti-U.S. slogan and stepping up the struggle for democracy and reunification is an indispensable requirement which has proceeded from the lessons of blood drawn from the history of struggle of the South Korean masses.

From 15 August [1945] until today, the United States has occupied South Korea militarily and has maintained the pro-U.S. military, fascist, and dictatorial system in this land through its stooges. Thus, it has brutally trampled underfoot our masses' desire for democracy.

It was precisely the United States that mercilessly trampled underfoot the dawn of democracy created by the 19 April [1960] popular resistance with the military dictatorial system fabricated by the 16 May military coup d'état. It was also none other than the United States that suffocated the Seoul spring, the spring of democratization, created by the Pusan-Masan resistance with the 12 December military coup d'état and the 17 May outrage, that issued the murderous order to suppress the Kwangju citizens, who turned out in the streets in resistance and for democratization and reunification, and that handed military troops over to the pro-U.S. military gangsters of Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u to implement the order. This is already a fact that is well-known. It was also the United States that schemed to prolong the pro-U.S.

military dictatorship led by traitor No Tae-u by blocking the road toward democratization, which was opened on the strength of the historic June mass resistance, with the deceptive 29 June declaration and the fraudulent and illicit election of 16 December and that, thus, obliterated our masses' golden opportunity for democracy.

Along with this, the United States has thoroughly obliterated from this land the foundation on which progressive figures can take office through democratic elections. Furthermore, whenever those political figures with high respect, confidence, and support from the people have appeared, the United States has gone so far as to slander, defame, or expel them from society and even to assassinate or kill them as seen in the cases with Mr Kim Ku and Cho Pong-am in the past.

The United States has thoroughly blocked not only the road toward democracy, but also the road toward national reunification in South Korea. When traitor Syngman Rhee, the vicious national splittist, was overthrown and, consequently, our masses' desire for reunification was enhanced, the voices for reunification: Let's go North, come South; let's meet at Panmunjom, echoed throughout South Korea. However, the United States trampled these voices of that time underfoot.

When the historic 4 July North-South joint communique was announced and, accordingly, all of the nation seethed with great emotion, it was none other than the United States that threw a wet blanket over our masses' urgent desire for reunification by establishing the fascist Yusin system, the vicious system opposing reunification.

Along with this, the United States has abetted the fascist dictators in their brutal suppression of the patriotic forces that make assertions for the achievement of national reconciliation and reunification through collaboration with communism. Thus, the United States has thoroughly hindered our masses' reunification movement.

In fact, the half century period of the U.S. policy toward the Korean peninsula is a period of criminal history during which the maneuvers for the permanent division of the Korean peninsula have been perpetrated.

Indeed, history has clearly shown that without the anti-U.S. struggle, any struggle for democracy and reunification cannot be (?successful).

In view of this historical lesson, our masses have an essential task of putting forward the anti-U.S. slogan for independence and waging a vigorous struggle for the sacred cause of democracy and reunification under this banner. Holding up the anti-U.S. slogan for independence in the vanguard and speeding up the cause of democracy and reunification under this banner are also mature demands for the development of the South Korean mass movement.

Although the South Korean mass movement has achieved significant growth ideologically and organizationally through the protracted period of nearly half a century, has driven the fascist dictatorship to the verge of collapse, and has led the situation close to where an anticommunist system is no longer acceptable so as to abolish the anticommunist state policy and achieve reunification through an alliance with communism, it has been forced to suffer a vicious cycle of failures and frustrations through the U.S. manipulations to disrupt it. Hence the South Korean mass movement has learned a painful lesson that without putting the anti-U.S. struggle for independence out front it is destined to fail. It also urgently requires that the masses themselves, who are in charge of the mass movement, hold aloft the anti-U.S. slogan for independence in the vanguard.

Our masses, who have learned, through actual experience, particularly the Kwangju massacre, that the United States is not an angel but a devil, not an apostle of democracy but a strangler of democracy, and not a savior of reunification but an enemy, have at last opened a new chapter in the anti-U.S. resistance, calling for holding aloft the anti-U.S. banner from the bottom of their hearts. Truly they have come to hold the key to winning democracy and a way out for national reunification when they put forward in the vanguard the anti-U.S. slogan for independence and struggle under this banner. Therefore, our masses should put the anti-U.S. slogan for independence out front in the vanguard and further accelerate the cause of democracy and reunification.

That our masses put the anti-U.S. slogan for independence out front in the vanguard and accelerate the cause of democracy and reunification means that they wage a vigorous struggle to oppose the U.S. colonial policy of subjugating South Korea and a struggle to put an end to the pro-U.S. military dictatorship in close combination with the struggle to put an end to the national division. Therefore, the patriotic masses of all walks of life should create a hotter anti-U.S. whirlwind to put an end to the colonial rule of American imperialism and raise a greater outcry of national salvation to overthrow the pro-U.S. military dictatorial group, their cat's paw, and to achieve reunification, the long cherished desire of the nation.

Our current task is to wage a powerful anti-U.S. resistance calling for the withdrawal of U.S. support for the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u military dictatorship, an end to U.S. interference in South Korean internal affairs, and the all-out withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea. And we must wage a vigorous struggle to nullify the 16 December presidential election, to check the peaceful transfer of power by No Tae-u, to liquidate totally the military dictatorial system, to check the unilateral hosting of the 1988 Olympics, and to oppose the two Koreas plot, as well as to wage a struggle for national reunification by such means as the abolition of the anticommunist state policy and the realization of reunification through an alliance with communism. Thus, we should

lead to success by all means our masses' grand anti-U.S. and antidictatorship march for national salvation, a march they have continued overcoming all difficulties and trials.

South Korea

Continued Trade Talks Wanted With U.S. *SK050751 Seoul YONHAP in English* *0730 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—The United States proposed Thursday that South Korea and the United States hold another round of negotiations on Korea's importation of U.S. cigarettes before Washington invokes Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter informed the South Korean embassy in Washington that a decision will be made next week on whether or not to invoke Section 301. He also suggested that one more round of negotiations take place before a decision is made on the matter, government sources here reported Friday.

The U.S. Government has decided to begin an investigation into whether Korea's cigarette-import policy violates Section 301 in accordance with a suit filed Tuesday by the U.S. Cigarette Export Association (USCEA).

The Korean Government has already notified the United States of its intention to cut the retail price of imported U.S. cigarettes to around 820 won per pack from the present 1,300 won this month and to 750 won in the latter half of this year by revising pertinent laws. (one U.S. dollar is worth about 780 won).

The United States, however, is demanding that Korea immediately lower the retail price to 700 won and improve the cigarette distribution system.

Although the U.S. Government accepted the cigarette exporters' suit, a number of formal procedures still remain, including approval by the Trade Policy Review Group, the Economic Policy Council, and the U.S. trade representative as well as the final order by the U.S. President.

The U.S. Government has proposed that talks with Korean officials be held even while the formal procedures are under way next week.

The Korean Government plans to accept the U.S. proposal for talks and the negotiations are expected to take place next week.

Korean trade officials said the Korean Government's basic position is that the problem should be solved through negotiations.

They said that it is highly likely that Sandra Kristoff, deputy assistant U.S. trade representative, would fly to Seoul next week for the talks.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration also plans to file a lawsuit with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) concerning Korea's importation of U.S. beef.

Korea's ambassador to Geneva, Yi Sang-ok, will lead a Korean delegation to cope with the U.S. move.

The United States urges that Korea open its markets to U.S. beef of all kinds, while Korea maintains that it will import high-quality beef for use only at tourist hotels after Korea's general elections expected to be held in March or April.

U.S. Questions Cigarette Imports *SK050133 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English* *5 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] The U.S. administration has decided to start a probe into whether Korea's cigarette-import policy violates Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act.

The U.S. Cigarette Export Association (USCEA) filed a suit with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on Feb. 22 [as published] charging Korea with violating Section 301.

Trade officials here yesterday said deputy secretaries of state, treasury and commerce met Wednesday behind closed-doors to make the decision.

The USTR will officially announce the decision today.

The trade officials said Korea is obliged to negotiate with the United States on the cigarette issue within one year of the beginning of the investigation.

If the trade talks end in failure, the U.S. administration will clamp a 100 percent tariff on specific Korean items in retaliation for violating Section 301, they said.

Trade officials will soon hold talks in Seoul or Washington to iron out their differences, they said.

The Korean government has already notified the United States of its intention to cut the retail price of imported U.S.-BRANDH cigarettes to around 860 won this month and 700 won next year after revising the pertinent laws.

However, U.S. officials demand that Korea lower the retail price immediately to 700 won and drastically improve distribution.

In the Feb. 22 suit, the USCEA—Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and Brown & Williamson—argued: "Due to the discrimination by Korea, American cigarette makers have no leeway to accede to its local tobacco market, estimated at \$2.1 billion in 1986.

"Unless Korea closes its domestic market, the U.S. makers will be able to capture 25 percent of the Korean cigarette market by selling \$520 million worth of their products annually."

The USTR, led by Clayton Yeutter, has 45 days to determine whether or not to investigate after a suit is filed.

However, the U.S. decision to begin the probe has come earlier than expected, the trade officials here said.

The Korean government asked the United States to reject a trade suit filed by American cigarette makers shortly after the USCEA suit was filed Feb. 22.

The Korean request was delivered by Kim Kyong-won, Korean ambassador to Washington, to Yeutter.

He rejected the request, deciding to make a probe into the cigarette case.

Meantime, the U.S. Administration is also threatening to invoke Section 301 over charges that Korea denies market access to American beef.

Trade officials from the two countries began talks in Geneva Wednesday to iron out their differences over imports of U.S. beef.

The United States has urged Korea to open its market to American beef of all kinds.

Korea insists it will import high-quality U.S. beef for use only at tourist hotels after the general election, to be held in March or April.

30 Percent Export Drop to U.S.
SK050718 Seoul YONHAP in English
0654 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea's small businesses have been buffeted by a drop of nearly 30 percent in their exports to the United States this year.

Makers of toys, furniture, arts and crafts, stationery, bags and metal products have been hit the hardest as they rely heavily on the United States as their chief market.

Business sources said export setbacks stem largely from wage increases agreed to during the nationwide labor disputes last summer, as well as the current rapid appreciation of the Korean won currency against the U.S. dollar.

In an effort to tide over the difficult export environment, small businesses have focused their major marketing policies on quality improvement, market diversification and cost savings. Market diversification is seen as a target unlikely to be achieved in a short period of time.

Toy shipments to the United States in January amounted to 25 million dollars, reaching only 65 percent of the amount in the same period last year. U.S.-bound toy exports accounted for 74.8 percent of the total 1.8 billion dollars worth of shipments last year.

The slowdown in toy exports is due chiefly to the higher value of the won currency and wage increases, which call for a 20 percent rise in export prices. U.S. buyers, however, decline to accept price increases over six to seven percent.

A total of 25 toy exporters, with a goal of market diversification, have participated in international toy shows in seven European countries. The shows are scheduled to run until late February.

Despite the exporters' all-out efforts for market diversification, the sources said the worsening U.S. market conditions could soon drive many toy makers, as well as other businesses, to the verge of collapse.

Trade Talks With Japan Open in Nagasaki
SK050211 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
5 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] Korean and Japanese officials discussed ways to expand bilateral trade at the 15th session of the Korea-Japan and Japan-Korea Committee for the Balanced Extension of Trade, which opened in Nagasaki yesterday for a three-day run, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said yesterday.

The two delegations will discuss how to expand two-way trade, improve bilateral trade conditions and promote the horizontal division of labor in view of the yen's appreciation against the U.S. dollar.

The 19 Korean delegates are headed by Yi Son-ki, vice chairman of the KFTA, while the 17 Japanese delegates are led by Masao Saito, executive managing director of the Japan Foreign Trade Council.

In the bilateral meeting, held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, the chief Korean delegate urged the Japanese representatives to buy more Korean products to rectify the trade imbalance, now heavily in favor of Japan.

Korea suffered a trade deficit of \$5.2 billion with Japan in 1987. This brought the cumulative trade deficit to over \$35 billion since 1965, when the two countries normalized diplomatic relations.

The Korean side also asked their Japanese counterparts to remove varying kinds of nontrade barriers against Korean goods for the balanced expansion of bilateral trade.

They are also requested to reduce the tariff rates for 60 Korean farm and fishery products.

The Japanese delegation, meantime, requested that Korea reduce the tax burden imposed on the Japanese firms incorporated in Korea.

It also called on Korea not to shift import sources of materials from Japan to other countries, including the United States.

Japan's Trade Barriers Cited

SK050252 Seoul YONHAP in English
0226 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—Japan has failed to redress its unfair trade acts but instead has raised invisible trade barriers against South Korean goods, reports from major groups of South Korean traders said Friday.

Reports from both the Korea Foreign Trade Association and the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation said the Korean goods shipped to Japan have been facing unusually tough procedures for custom clearance and other invisible restrictions.

Japanese manufacturers have also been stepping up their pressures on the local distribution sector to keep the Korean goods off their domestic markets, according to the reports.

On overseas markets, the reports added, Japanese exporters have been involved in an increasing number of dumping practices and other maneuvers aimed at chasing off the Korean goods.

The reports said Japan, contrary to normal practices in trade of fur and leather garments, has required declaration of scientific names on the Korean products to delay the custom clearance.

Japan is imposing high tariffs required for fur goods on the leather garments from Korea if they have any fur parts like in lining or in collar, although the international practices go only with the products of which 50 percent are made of furs. [sentence as received]

Flowers shipped from Korea usually go through unusually long quarantine inspection at the Japanese customs affecting 20 percent of the shipment for sample inspection compared to the normal standards of 10 percent.

Complicated procedures for custom clearance in Japan have also hampered the entry of Korean cows and teas, the reports said.

Meanwhile, Japanese exporters, plagued by the appreciation of their yen currency that made Korean goods more competitive on the international market, are striving to maintain their market shares through increased dumping practices, including their recent cut by more than 60 percent the price of their CNC [expansion unknown] lathes bound for West Germany.

The Japanese dumping practices have spread further to polyester fabrics, video tape recorders, home refrigerators, video tapes, semiconductors, and other major export items of them, the reports said.

Moreover, the reports charged, the Japanese exporters of video tape recorders, color TV tubes, automobiles, and semiconductors are even goading local manufacturers to file trade suits against Korean products.

Defense Minister on Safeguarding Olympics

SK050325 Seoul YONHAP in English
0312 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korean Defense Minister Chong Ho-yong said Friday that his ministry will put primary emphasis of its new year defense policy on safeguarding the Seoul Olympics from possible armed provocations aimed at disrupting its successful staging with a view to maintaining the regional peace and stability in the Korean peninsula.

To this end, Chong said in his new year defense policy briefing held before President Chon Tu-hwan, the Defense Ministry will seek to perfect the nation's defense readiness, to strengthen the morale of the armed forces and to maximize the efficiency in the management of the national defense.

Chong also said, while touching on the achievements of major defense projects pursued during 1980-1987 period, the South Korean armed forces are now fully ready to repulse North Korean communists' surprise provocations at their initial stages. He pointed out that the armed forces have improved their readiness to meet the surprise attacks on short notices.

To improve the early warning system, Chong added, efforts are being made to develop self-reliant intelligence system under which informations are gathered and analysed without any external support.

Chong went on to disclose the front-deployed combat units have been successful in cutting in half the time necessary for getting fully ready to counter regular warfares through intensive trainings. The operational system of the units deployed in the western forward has also been refurbished, he added.

He said that a comprehensive defense plan for the capital and its neighboring areas has also been worked out, which includes an automatization of air defense system. He said the Korean and the U.S. Armed Forces have improved their joint operation systems.

Commenting on preparations for special warfare, the defense minister said military forces and command operations in the rear areas have been strengthened, with the Army replacing combat police squads for coastal guard duty.

Chong said South Korea's military power against North Korea has been greatly improved over the past seven years, laying a firm foundation for securing a solid defense basis.

President Chon is scheduled to step down on Feb. 24, with the expiration of his single, seven-year term.

East-Bloc Trade Commission To Be Set Up
SK050210 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
5 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] A special trade commission which will study ways to promote economic exchanges with Communist countries will be established in April this year, officials at the Korea Foreign Trade Association said yesterday.

People from the academic circle, journalism and business world will participate in the commission, association officials said.

Hungary and Korea have recently set up trade offices and it was the first time that Korea has ever changed trade offices with a Communist country.

The 50-member commission will include scholars studying Communist world affairs, journalists, and businessmen who have traded with Communist nations.

The commission will have four sessions a year to discuss ways to gather and analyze information about trade exchanges with China, the Soviet Union, and Eastern European nations and to promote trade with those countries.

Students Expected To Study in Poland, Romania
SK050845 Seoul *YONHAP* in English
0834 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—Eight South Korean students majoring in Polish language studies are expected to obtain approval to study at Polish universities during the upcoming summer vacation, marking the first time that South Korean students will be allowed to study in an East-Bloc country, the Hanguk University of Foreign Studies here said Friday.

South Korea, host of this year's summer Olympic games, has no diplomatic ties with Poland or other East-Bloc countries.

According to the Polish language department at Hanguk University, Polonia, a Polish agency in charge of handling foreign students' education, has recently said it will inform Hanguk by Feb. 15 of details on educational programs for Korean students wishing to study at Polish universities.

Polonia's recent reply was in response to a request made last September by Professor Chong Pyong-kwon of Hanguk University's Polish language department that his Polish-language students be allowed to enroll in educational programs offered by Polish schools for foreign students.

A Polish-French language professor, who is also a colleague of Professor Chong in the university's Polish language department, had first looked into the possibility of Korean students studying in Poland during a visit to Warsaw last July when he received a positive response from Polonia and Warsaw University.

The eight Korean students have applied to study at Polish universities during the Korean university's summer vacation in July and August.

Hanguk University's Romanian language department is reportedly considering the possibility of a similar opportunity for its students.

Meanwhile, riding on the recent wave of expanded contacts between Seoul and communist-bloc countries in non-political fields, a Polish-Japanese trading firm opened a branch office in Seoul late last month.

Testimony Continues on 'Kwangju Incident'
SK050235 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
5 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Six people testified on the bloody Kwangju incident in the fourth day session of the Democratization and Reconciliation council subpanel on the matter, recalling how the tragedy happened to them eight years ago.

In his testimony, Pae Kon-su, who represents the families of those killed in the bloody incident, alleged that the "cruel" suppression by the martial law forces made citizens unite and fight against them.

Pae, who lost his son-in-law at the time, asserted that the airborne rangers broke into ordinary houses to pull away even those youths "who never demonstrated," saying such excesses angered citizens and made them join in the student demonstrations.

He demanded that the committee form a special fact-finding body comprising people from all walks of life to unveil the truth of the Kwangju tragedy.

Kim Song-su, who was shot along with his wife and five-year-old daughter said that martial law troops fired at his family "without any reason."

Kim, a truck driver at the time, said, "I was driving toward Tamyang to return to my hometown of Chindo. But I was stopped at a check point somewhere near Tamyang. My wife implored them (soldiers) to permit our passage only to be refused. The moment I drove back, they indiscriminately fired at us."

He said what the wounded need badly right now is the government's compensation to help them make a living, adding that fact-finding of the truth of the Kwangju uprising and the restoration of the dignity of Kwangju citizens is just as important.

Pak Sok-yon, a member of the May 18 Righteous Uprising Society, stressed that restoration of the honor of Kwangju citizens who were labelled as "rioters" at the time would be of great significance. Pak also said the government should make utmost efforts to compensate the wounded.

In his testimony, Lt. gen. So Chon-yol, ret., said "only 17 out of the 300 rebellious citizens and students" holding out at the provincial headquarters of Chollanam-do in Kwangju were killed in the process of military operation, denying the popular suspicion that many more were killed there.

So, who was the commander of the martial law forces in the Kwangju area then, testified that he tried "until the last minute" to seek a "peaceful" solution of the hold-out before raiding the armed citizens and students.

So declined to speak on how the situation had escalated, asserting that he only took charge of quelling [as published] the seizure of the city.

Han To-hui, then head of the Kwangju Prison said that armed militia tried on several occasions to raid the prison, guarded by the martial law troops on May 22, only to be retreated due to strong resistance.

Rival Parties Seek To Discredit Each Other
SK050209 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
5 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The two rival opposition parties traded verbal attacks with each other yesterday in an attempt to project their respective "pure" image as an opposition party and to discredit the other.

Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party questioned what the true color, identity and political platforms are of the rival Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

Kim Tae-chung's PPD urged the rival RDP to stop colluding with the ruling camp, asking whether the RDP is an opposition or a ruling party.

On the other hand, the RDP urged what it called pure democratic forces in the PPD to return to the RDP to prepare for the forthcoming general elections, reiterating that the RDP should become the central force in the integration of the vivified opposition camp.

The PPD countered that it is willing to hold a three-party conference involving the PPD, the RDP and the dissident groups to debate on ways for an opposition integration.

Reunification Democratic Party spokesman Kim Tae-yong said that Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Emocracy perpetuated the division of the opposition camps and foiled the popular wish for an opposition integration by recruiting 99 progressive dissident figures.

The recruitment disrupted the merger of the divided opposition before the forthcoming legislative election, the spokesman argued.

He criticized the PPD as a "gray party" that made the foremost contribution to the prolongation of military-backed rule by breaking away from the RDP to back Kim Tae-chung's bid for the presidency.

The RDP withdrew from its original intention to make a direct attack on the PPD as a radical opposition party and instead indirectly questioned "the true color, identity and political platforms" of the PPD.

The RDP called on the "pure democratic figures" who are dissatisfied with the PPD'S policy line to come back to the RDP.

Spokesman Kim said his party will closely monitor whether the PPD will orient itself toward liberal democracy or radical progressivism.

PPD spokesman An Tong-son countered the RDP attack without hesitation yesterday.

He called on the RDP to stop collaborating with the ruling camp in order to adopt the medium-size constituency system electing two-to-three lawmakers in each electoral district.

The PPD advocates the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency system, which it said is the core of democracy. It criticized the ruling Democratic Justice Party and the RDP for sticking to the "legacy of the dictatorial Yushin (Revitalization) System."

"It is an irony for the RDP, an opposition party, to take issue with the other opposition PPD'S political platforms, which are not questioned even by the ruling camp," said the spokesman.

The PPD also pointed to the RDP for having failed to take issue with the "frauds and abuses committed by the ruling camp during the last presidential contest."

Spokesman An said the RDP is aiming at "the wrong target for wrong and misguided purposes" that will serve no cause for the opposition camp.

Kim Tae-chung made it clear yesterday that the PPD is ready to wage any dispute with the rival RDP if the latter provokes it.

He sternly admonished that the RDP cannot win in its "misguided attack," saying that the 99 dissident recruits are democratic figures who valiantly fought against the incumbent government.

RDP Questions PPD Political Ideologies
SK050137 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English
5 Feb 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Questionable Ideologies"]

[Text] RDP lawmakers are raising the issue of the "questionable ideologies" of the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy], referring to its joining hands with out-of-parliament activists.

"I cannot but suspect their ideas have changed," said RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong, upon emerging from a meeting of key party officeholders.

The remarks reflected the prevailing attitude among RDP members, who have been trying to emphasize the "radical character" of their rival party.

Kim said his party will ask the PPD to clarify its party policies; but avoided answering questions about specific criteria the RDP would use to judge the PPD's character.

"The question should be answered by Kim Tae-chung, who has repeatedly contended that his party is different from our party in policies and character," Kim said.

No Emphasizes Price Stability at Meeting
SK050115 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English
5 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] President-elect No Tae-u yesterday told economic ministers the first priority in economic policy must be to stabilize prices.

Overheated trading of stocks and property create an inflationary psychology, No said after receiving special reports from Deputy Prime Minister Chong In-yong and Minister of Finance Sakong Il on recent price increases.

He also received a report from Minister of Home Affairs Yi Sang-hui on public safety.

Chong, who is also minister of economic planning, said the government will peg growth of the total money supply at 18 percent to fight inflation.

No said, "You have to bear in mind that all economic policy goals are based on continued price stability, and make all efforts to keep prices stable.

"Overheated trading in the stock market and increases in property prices give the people an impression that the government's economic policy is hibernating during the transition period."

The president-elect said a gap between supply and demand appears to be causing consumer prices, in particular, to rise.

"Economic ministers should not neglect checking economic trends during the transitional period. They should take appropriate measures at proper moments," he said.

No also told the economic ministers to keep the nation's trade surplus at a proper level to curb its inflationary pressure.

Chong said the government will reduce loans to big businesses and devise measures to curb property speculation.

The government, he said, will review its plan to increase public transportation and utilities prices.

And it will make sure that the appreciation of the won will benefit consumers, he said.

The government will not intervene in the stock market, instead it will encourage investors and agencies involved in stock trading to seek stability voluntarily, he said.

With regard to public safety, No said the police should never violate human rights in investigating criminal suspects.

Institutional changes should be made to prevent torture from reoccurring, No said.

He told Minister of Home Affairs, Yi to enhance the morale of policemen by improving their working conditions.

The briefing session was also attended by Chae Mun-sik, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, DJP Secretary-General Sim Myong-po and other party officials.

Prices Soaring as Election Nears
SK050107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
5 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] Both consumer and wholesale prices are soaring with less than two months to go until the parliamentary election.

According to the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and the Bank of Korea (BOK) yesterday, consumer and wholesale prices rose an identical 0.6 percent in January, which translates into an alarming 7.2 percent annual rate.

The figure is by far higher than the government-projected target for this year—2-3 percent in wholesale prices and 4-5 percent in consumer prices.

The hike in consumer prices last month was led by foodstuffs, including green onion (30.2 percent), spinach (23.2 percent), chicken (12.2 percent) and pork (4.5 percent), along with stationery (12 percent) and secondary school reference books (9 percent).

Agriculture, forestry and fishery products spearheaded last month's rise in consumer prices, which also included non-ferrous metal components and parts, machinery and paper products.

Last month also saw a 1.8 percent growth in export prices, which was ascribed to a price hike in raw materials for leather and rubber products and supply shortages of steel products.

The appreciation of the won currency against the U.S. dollar also played a role in pulling up export prices by affecting electric-electronic and transportation equipment sectors.

The import prices in January marked a 2.3 percent increase over a month ago, due to the decreased supply of non-ferrous metals and foodstuffs.

In the meantime, the EPB and the BOK changed the basic year for price indices from 1980 to 1985.

According to the new system, the price indices of last month were 109.2 for consumer prices, 100.9 for wholesale prices, 115.1 for export prices and 110.9 for import prices.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Ruling Creates 'Considerable Uncertainty'
*BK050444 Hong Kong AFP in English 0410 GMT
5 Feb 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 5 (AFP)—Stock prices opened sharply lower on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange Friday after a court ruling plunged Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's troubled political party into a new crisis, analysts said.

Brokers said most stocks posted losses of five to 10 percent as investors moved to assess the impact of Thursday's high court ruling that the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) was an illegal society because it had branches not approved by the registrar of societies.

Dr. Mahathir said after the ruling that he remained prime minister, but analysts said the court ruling had generated considerable uncertainty over the future of Malaysia's top leadership.

UMNO, with 1.4 million ethnic Malay members, heads Malaysia's ruling coalition of 13 parties. Its virtual domination of Malaysia's political scene since independence has contributed much to Malaysia's stability.

Analysts said the court ruling had raised the spectre of a fresh struggle for power within UMNO between Dr. Mahathir and his archrival, former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, after the party resolves its legal problems.

Foreign exchange dealers said that the court ruling on UMNO had not had any visible impact on ringgit-dollar rates because of the weakness of the Malaysian currency.

A stock broker said people were unsure how to react to the court ruling, adding: "There probably won't be a sharp fall in prices, just a slow erosion because of declining confidence."

Mahathir on Government Status

*BK050629 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0600 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir stresses that the decision of the Kuala Lumpur High Court declaring the United Malays National Organization, UMNO, as an unlawful society does not affect the status of the government. UMNO is a major component party of the ruling coalition, the Barisan Nasional. Under the country's Constitution, the government is formed by members of parliament who contested as individuals in the general elections although under the symbol of one party.

The prime minister also made it clear the Constitution also provides that a member of parliament can become the prime minister. Similarly, ministers appointed by the prime minister are also not affected. The government will function as usual. The political stability of the country will not be affected.

On the position of UMNO, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir says the party has many options. He does not disclose the options. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir urged party members to remain calm. The party will not appeal against the judgment.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir says the state of the party today is the result of the ambitions of certain party members with bad intention and those who could not achieve power through the elections. Their intention is to destroy the party.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir says he does not consider the situation as (?explosive) as it is only a technical matter. He said the action of the 11 UMNO members could be an example and a lesson to all party members.

Joint Commission With Thailand Meets

*BK031401 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1
in Malay 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88*

[Text] The Malaysian-Thai Joint Commission held its first meeting today. The two countries described the commission as an organization aimed at fostering bilateral relations. The decision to establish the joint commission was made last June. The commission is aimed at reviewing various aspects of bilateral relations, which cannot be carried out by the joint border commission.

[Begin RTM correspondent Ganesan recording] Speaking at the opening of the first session of the joint commission, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the two countries should continue their joint efforts to assess all aspects of bilateral relations and interests of the two sides. Datuk Hassan Omar added that the commission constitutes a means to enhance cooperation in various fields, including tourism, information, and others. He also stressed the importance of improving existing good relations.

Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said in his address that the inclusion of several high-ranking officials in the joint commission will help solve any problem in the spirit of compromise. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to the prime ministers of the two countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit Thailand at the end of this month and hold talks with his Thai counterpart General Prem Tinsulanon. [end recording]

2-Day Session Closes

*BK040911 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] The first meeting of the Malaysia-Thai Joint Commission ended in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon with Thailand agreeing to consider a Malaysian request to buy palm oil. Thailand is now undertaking a review of its vegetable oil industry. Both sides came to terms on 13 points during the 2-day meeting.

In a joint news conference, the minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, said that both sides have agreed in principle to establish an air link between Langkawi Island and Phuket. On fishing, he said the relevant ministers will meet to work out further cooperation in the sector. Officials from both sides explained at the meeting the implications of their respective laws related to their exclusive economic zones. Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation on the Sungai Golok River Basin projects and Malaysia agreed to facilitate the movement of perishable goods from Thailand through Malaysia. The two countries are to also intensify anti-smuggling measures, especially in drugs and arms.

Thai Foreign Minister Tan Sri Sitthi Sawetsila said he was looking forward to the 4-day visit of Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to Chiang Mai from the 22d of this month.

Singapore

U.S. Withdrawal of Preferences Condemned
*BK051202 Singapore Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Some 4,000 Singapore trade unionists and workers held a protest rally and mass demonstration today to condemn the U.S. Government for its moves to end trade concessions for Singapore. Members of the National Trade Union Congress [NTUC] and its affiliated unions were at the grounds of the Singapore Conference Hall for the hour-long demonstration. They carried placards and banners and voiced their displeasure.

NTUC officials had handed over a protest letter against the U.S. Government's move to the American Embassy. The letter was given to the U.S. deputy chief of mission, Mr Peter Higgins, by the NTUC president, Mr Oscar Oliveiro, the deputy secretary general, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, and the vice president, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon.

During the rally this morning, the NTUC protest letter was read out by Mr Oliveiro. The letter says that the U.S. Government promised to restore Singapore's trade privileges if it amended its copyright laws [word indistinct]. The NTUC says that Singapore did this early last year, but now the U.S. Government has gone back on its word. The NTUC condemns the U.S. Government for this

cynical and irresponsible act, and wants the U.S. Government to rescind its decision to withdraw benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP].

The NTUC says American products enter Singapore freely. On the other hand, its removal of GSP benefits means there will be [word indistinct] duties on Singapore products entering the American market. It says that unfair trade practices will lead to Singapore workers losing their jobs and adds that the U.S. Government should not take Singapore workers for granted.

Some 100 workers also gathered outside the U.S. Embassy at Hill Street to register their protest. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Demonstration

*BK050916 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT
5 Feb 88*

[Text] Singapore, Feb 5 (AFP)—Trade unionists and workers staged a demonstration here Friday against the U.S. decision to withdraw trade benefits from Singapore, then handed a strongly-worded letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy.

Visiting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng meanwhile defended Washington's decision to exclude Singapore from its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from January 1989 and advised against any trade boycott in retaliation.

The letter of protest said Singapore workers had been led to believe that trade benefits would remain if Singapore amended its copyright laws to grant protection to U.S. intellectual property, which it had done.

"The U.S. Government has committed a treacherous act by renegeing on its previous agreement made by the U.S. special trade representative," the letter said, referring to Clayton Yeutter.

"Regrettably, he has no sense of honour. It is really sad that the U.S. is no longer the honourable country who abides by its commitments and obligations to international agreements," it added.

The letter, from National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) President Oscar Oliveiro to U.S. Ambassador Daryl Arnold, was handed to the deputy chief of mission, Peter Higgins.

An estimated 4,000 people took part in the protest rally which heard union official Othman Marican accuse the U.S. Government of betraying and cheating Singapore workers.

Members of the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), which is headed by a cabinet minister, brashed placards and banners condemning the U.S. move, which also affects Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan.

Under the GSP program, developing nations have been able to market a range of products to the United States duty-free to help develop their economies. Asia's so-called "four dragons" made such effective use of GSP that they ran up hefty trade surpluses with the United States.

The STRAITS TIMES reported that Yeo Cheow Tong, the minister of state for foreign affairs, was to lead a protest delegation to Washington Saturday.

Government officials were not immediately available to confirm the report. An official statement was expected later in the day.

Mr Lyng told a press conference that the U.S. move was "a simple graduation (from the Generalized System of Preferences). It's part of the whole concept of GSP."

Reacting to a suggestion Thursday of a retaliatory boycott by S. Chandra Das, chairman of the government Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Foreign Affairs, Mr Lyng said: "we would not like to have a boycott on agricultural products, or any products."

The U.S. official, here for a conference of U.S. agricultural attaches in the region, added: "I sincerely hope Singapore won't be called upon to do anything like that."

Cambodia

Soviet Planning Committee Group Arrives *BK050619 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0401 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 5 Feb (SPK)—A delegation of the USSR State Planning Committee led by its vice chairman Petr Paskar, member of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Phnom Penh Thursday morning for an official friendship visit to Cambodia.

It was greeted on its arrival by Chea Chanto, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and planning minister; Eugeni R. Chenderei, economic adviser of the USSR Embassy in Cambodia; and others.

Soviet Army Delegation Leaves After Visit *BK051240 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1125 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 5—A delegation of the General Political Department of the Soviet Armed Forces led by General A.D. Lizichev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the department, left here Thursday after a three-day official friendship visit to Kampuchea.

It was seen off at Pochentong Airport by El Vansarat, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chief of the General Political Department of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Kampuchea, and other senior Kampuchean officers.

E. Bazeyrev, counsellor to the Soviet Embassy; and Tran Phuc and Simoeung Vanasy, military attachés to respectively the Vietnamese and Lao Embassies in Kampuchea, were also present.

While here, the delegation was warmly received by Defence Minister Koy Buntha, who is also member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, and held talks with El Vansarat. The delegation attended a meeting organized in its honour by the PRK Ministry of National Defense.

The Soviet guests visited the army museum and several Kampuchean army units in Phnom Penh.

Hun Sen Meets Australian Parliamentary Group *BK050449 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1146 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 Feb (SPK)—Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, received on Tuesday in Phnom Penh an Australian parliamentary delegation led by Senator Christoffer Offer Schaont, on a visit in Cambodia since 28 January.

Speaking to his guests, Hun Sen, also minister of foreign affairs, pointed out that this visit enabled them to better understand the truth in Cambodia. He informed the delegation of the recent evolution of the situation in the country, first of all the process of a political solution to the Cambodian problem. He said the second meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in France was a new step toward the end of the Cambodian people's bloodshed. Chairman Hun Sen thanked the Australian Government for its assistance to Cambodia through humanitarian organizations and its contribution to the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

For his part, Christoffer Offer Schaont expressed his support for the PRK's national reconciliation policy and the fruitful results of the meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk. He also expressed his conviction that a political solution to the Cambodian problem will be successful. He thanked the Cambodian Government for creating facilities for Australian humanitarian organizations which are on mission in the country.

He pledged, upon his return, to make the Australian Government and people understand the reality in Cambodia and to ask them to continue supporting the Cambodian revolution's just cause.

The Australian delegation left Phnom Penh today ending its 1-week visit to Cambodia.

Assembly's 14th Session Resumes 5 February
*BK050609 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] On the morning of 5 February, the PRK first National Assembly's 14th session resumed its work in accordance with the agenda.

On the morning of the 3d day of the session, National Assembly members attentively listened to commentaries by the four National Assembly commissions—the Legislative Commission, the Economic and Budget Affairs Commission, the Cultural and Social Affairs Commission, and the Nationalities Commission—on their activities between the 13th and the 14th sessions.

The audience also heard the draft of the PRK National Assembly's statement voicing support for the summit meeting between Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, read by Comrade Mat Ly, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions.

Finally, Comrade Chan Ven, general secretary of the Council of State, divided the audience into groups to allow National Assemblymen to meticulously discuss the draft statement prepared.

Figures on Rice Production, Fish Catch
*BK051238 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1120 GMT
5 Feb 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 4—By the end of January, Kampuchean peasants had harvested monsoon rice on 866,430 hectares or 68 percent of the planted acreage, including 193,846 hectares of short-term rice.

Battambang Province, one of the biggest rice producers in Kampuchea, gathered rice on 99,383 hectares or 90 percent of the plan. It was followed by the provinces of Kampong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Svay Rieng, Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu which harvested rice on 5,500, 64,735, 79,209, 84,000 and 28,014 hectares respectively, or more than half of their cultivated acreage.

The peasants have made intense preparations for dry-season rice cropping. They have put 67,400 hectares under rice including 31,400 hectares of high-yield rice varieties, achieving 42 percent of the plan or 5 percent more than the corresponding period last year.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the planted areas include 17,390 hectares in Takeo Province, 11,840 hectares in Kompong Cham, 13,000 hectares in Kandal, 12,000 hectares in Prey Veng, 4,730 hectares in Kratie, 2,730 hectares in Kompong Chhnang and 2,100 hectares in Kampong Thom.

In the meantime, Kampuchean fishermen netted 14,570 tons of the ri fish. The biggest catch was made by fishermen in Phnom Penh with 2,670 tons.

Next came the provinces of Kompong Cham and Kompong Chhnang with respectively 1,900 and 1,450 tons. Other provinces such as Kandal, Pursat, Siem Reap, Takeo, Prey Veng and Kompong Thom caught from 200 tons to 800 tons of fish.

Son Sann Predicts 'Patriot' Sihanouk's Moves
*BK050205 Bangkok THE NATION in English
5 Feb 88 p 6*

[By Pratya Sawetwimon and Christopher Johnson]

[Text] Prince Sihanouk will soon meet Vietnamese officials in France to discuss the Kampuchean conflict, predicted Son Sann, Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) leader.

He said Hanoi will propose a two-party government between the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh regime and the Sihanoukist faction, with the Prince as head of state.

But Sihanouk, whom he described as a "patriot," will reject the offer, he said. He will instead suggest a four-party government to include the other Khmer resistance factions—the KPNLF and the Khmer Rouge.

In an exclusive interview with THE NATION at a Bangkok hotel on Wednesday, Son Sann said it was his "supposition" that "the prince will go again to France to meet the Vietnamese" after his meetings in Beijing with Zhao Ziyang.

But he added "I am not sure."

When asked to elaborate on his prediction, Son Sann told reporters from THE NATION to "verify it step by step and you will see that what I said is correct."

A spokesman for the Sihanoukist army in Bangkok refused to comment on Son Sann's prediction. The Vietnamese Embassy and Khmer Rouge officials could not be reached for comment.

The meeting would be one of the most important developments in the violent, 9-year dispute, because the coalition government has repeatedly urged Hanoi to join in talks. But Vietnam has so far opted out, saying the warring Khmer factions should settle the conflict themselves.

The Vietnamese proposal, said Son Sann, would be aimed at splitting the UN-recognized coalition government, which has battled the estimated 140,000 Vietnamese occupation troops since they invaded the impoverished country in 1978.

In a surprise statement after weeks of apparent tension between the two, Son Sann said he agreed with the Prince's tactics and called him a "patriot."

He said Sihanouk told him that he used the talks to "explore Vietnamese thinking through Hun Sen."

Sihanouk last week resigned as president of the Kampuchean coalition government and later cancelled the planned third round of talks with Hun Sen.

"When the prince wanted to meet Hun Sen, he announced one year leave of absence and complained about Khmer Rouge attacks. This time he wants to be free to talk with Vietnam, and that's why he charged the KPNLF (with discrediting his peace talks)," he said.

Commenting that he was not satisfied with the Paris talks which he refused to join, he said he will participate in talks if Hanoi takes part, with or without Hun Sen.

"We have to negotiate the ceasefire with Vietnam," he said, adding the nation can be unified only after a troop withdrawal.

Son Sann said he wants the soldiers pulled-out either this year or next.

He also wants to send back the one million Vietnamese he claims have settled there. They have become citizens there and have robbed the country by manipulating trade to send food, rubber, tin, and money from international aid back to Vietnam, he said.

"We cannot wait until 1990 (as Hanoi promises) because then Kampuchea will be colonized completely by Vietnam," the 76-year old guerrilla leader said.

All agreements reached between Sihanouk and Phnom Penh's premier are not valid, because both of them met individually, he said.

Vietnam said it will not pull out its troops until guarantees are made to disarm the Khmer Rouge. But Son Sann said the coalition government can not do it alone.

"If Vietnam wants to dismantle the Khmer Rouge, they should come to the table to negotiate," he said. An election is the best way to remove the Khmer Rouge from power, he insisted, because Khmer people will not forgive them for their reign of terror during 1976-78, when an estimated one to two million Khmers perished.

Son Sann, a longtime politician and former prime minister under Sihanouk in the late 1960's, urged the United Nations to continue to condemn Vietnam as aggressors.

"We cannot ignore international pressure on Hanoi, because militarily the coalition government can not defeat Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea" he said.

He dismissed reports of confrontation between the KPNLF and National Sihanoukist Army (ANS) troops, saying about 400 Sihanoukist guerrillas were welcomed into their base at Sokh San for two months before they left without any fighting.

He blamed Sihanouk's son and ANS Commander-in-Chief, Prince Norodom Rannarit, for failing to check reports before sending them to his father.

"We have never confronted the ANS before, why do we have to do it now," he said.

He claimed that about 5,000 KPNLF guerrillas are operating deep inside Kampuchea, denying reports that the strength of his armed force has seriously weakened to only a few hundred guerrillas.

Report on Sihanouk's Letter to Hun Sen

HK051118 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Beijing, Feb 5 (AFP)—Former Cambodian resistance chief Prince Norodom Sihanouk has informed Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen that he has decided on an "indefinite adjournment" of their peace talks.

"The time is still not ripe for Sihanouk to be able to make progress with Hun Sen in resolving the Cambodian problem," the prince said in a letter addressed to Mr. Hun Sen.

A copy of the letter was made available to Agence France-Presse here Friday.

Prince Sihanouk resigned Saturday as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) and announced that his talks with Mr. Hun Sen, premier of the pro-Vietnamese Phnom Penh regime, were finished.

Observers say the wording of Prince Sihanouk's letter, compared to what he said Saturday, appeared to leave the door open for continued peace parleys between the two men.

"I have to recognize the fact that an indefinite adjournment of our talks in (North) Korea, France, India or elsewhere is less prejudicial to the interests of the Khmer people and country than a fruitless and futile continuation of such talks," the prince said in his letter.

On Saturday, Prince Sihanouk had said he would not see Mr. Hun Sen again unless he was accompanied by Vietnamese officials.

The 65-year-old former monarch held two rounds of talks with Mr. Hun Sen outside Paris in December and January, the first such negotiations since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978.

Prince Sihanouk added Saturday that by resigning as CGDK chief he had become a "free man" and said he was ready for direct talks with Vietnamese Government officials.

Hanoi rejected his overture. Its Foreign Ministry reaffirmed Thursday that warring Cambodian factions should sit down together first.

Before Prince Sihanouk announced his resignation, he was scheduled to hold more talks with Mr. Hun Sen in April in Pyongyang. A fourth round was planned for France before the end of the year followed by a fifth round in India.

Many diplomats here believe Hanoi is not final in its refusal to meet the prince. Provided he does not change his mind about resigning, they say, Vietnam now has the chance to show some flexibility and improve their image abroad.

Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge as well as foreign minister of the coalition government, is due to arrive in Beijing on Saturday to persuade the prince to stay on as resistance leader.

The Cambodian resistance fields 50,000 men against an estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops who invaded Cambodia to oust the Khmer Rouge which now forms the most powerful contingent within the resistance government.

Rannarit Decides To Stay Out of Coalition
BK051130 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 5 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Rannarit, the son of former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has decided against joining the political structure of the Cambodian resistance coalition, his spokesman said here Friday.

The spokesman said Prince Ranarit had asked his father "to be allowed to remain outside" the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) which holds Cambodia's seat at the United Nations.

This followed reports from Beijing that Prince Sihanouk, who resigned last week as CGDK president, had asked his son to represent him in the coalition.

The spokesman said the National Sihanoukist Army (ANS), of which Prince Ranarit is commander-in-chief, would continue to "closely cooperate" with the coalition's two other members, the Khmer Rouge and the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

He said those members of the resistance's Sihanoukist faction known as the FUNCINPEC (National United Front For an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia) who hold ministerial posts in the CGDK had retained their portfolios.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is second in line in the CGDK's leadership as vice-president of the coalition. The situation arising from Prince Sihanouk's resignation would be discussed at a CGDK meeting Wednesday, the spokesman said.

Five SRV Battalions Routed in Pailin
BK040150 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT
3 Feb 88

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] Pailin battlefield [Battambang Province]: On 25 January, our National Army ambushed and routed the Vietnamese soldiers attempting to seize Hill 284 from us, killing four and wounding five. We also destroyed an AK, 100 mines, and some war materiel; and seized some war materiel. On (?27) January, the Vietnamese enemy sent five battalions of soldiers to attempt to seize Hill 284 from us, but they ran into our ambush. We killed 15 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 25 others. The survivors turned back. We destroyed a B-40, an AK, a telephone set, and some war materiel; and seized 5 AK's, 5 crates of AK ammunition, 10 DK-82 shells, 10 rounds of 60-mm mortar shells, and some war materiel.

On 29 January, the Vietnamese enemy sent a number of soldiers to attempt to seize this hill for the third time. We again ambushed and routed these soldiers. We killed 18 of them and wounded 21 others; destroyed a B-41, 2 B-40's, and 4 AK's; and seized 3 AK's, 12 B-41 rockets, and some war materiel.

In sum, we killed or wounded 88 Vietnamese soldiers.

On 27 January, our National Army shelled Hills M'tes, Sarawan, Pradaok, 551, 300, Russei, Veng, and 200, and attacked the Vietnamese soldiers east of Hill 284, killing 30 of them, wounding 39 others, and destroying 3 barracks. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Construction Delegates in Cuba

Phnom Penh, 4 Feb (SPK)—A delegation of the PRK's General Construction Department led by its general director, Ti Yav, visited Cuba from 21 to 29 January. During the visit, the delegation was received by and held talks with many Cuban officials. A cooperation agreement between Cambodia and Cuba in the field of construction was concluded at the end of the visit. According to the document, the Cuban side will send to Cambodia technical documents concerning architecture, building technology, town planning, and building materials. It will assist Cambodia in training cadres to produce cement and ceramics. [Summary] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 4 Feb 88 BK]

Men Sam-an on Propaganda

A meeting was held on 4 February at the central political school to review the outcome of work by cadres in charge of propaganda and education. According to a report read at the meeting by Comrade Khoy Khunhuor, satisfactory achievements have been made in this work, thus contributing to strengthening and expanding the revolutionary forces' position of strength and victory and their right to mastery both along the border and inside the country. In her speech at the meeting, Mrs Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Organization Commission, highly valued the brilliant outcome of the propaganda and education work scored by cadres, party members, and people throughout the country. [Summary From Poor Reception] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 88 BK]

Indonesia

Significance of Mokhtar's Moscow Trip Viewed
BK031553 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English
30 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Mokhtar's Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] Early next week Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumamatajaya is leaving for Moscow for a four-day official visit beginning on the 4th of February to return the visit to Jakarta of his counterpart, Shevardnadze, last year.

Foreign Minister Mokhtar stated to the press a week ago that economic cooperation and bilateral trade between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, Kampuchea and Afghanistan would be the focus of attention and topic on his visit. He will discuss these matters with his counterpart Shevardnadze and other competent authorities which may include Secretary General Gorbachev himself. Anyway, Minister Mokhtar will make a courtesy call on him.

There has been some development in the peace process and political settlement of the Kampuchean question. President Sihanouk had already held two rounds of informal talks with Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen. The talks will continue. Though President Sihanouk is not very optimistic about the results of the talks as he expressed two days ago in Beijing, yet the mere fact that they will be continued is already progress.

Minister Mokhtar had already exchanged views in Paris with President Sihanouk on the progress of the talks during the eve of the second round, while Hun Sen had already briefed Moscow while on his way back to Hanoi. Therefore Minister Mokhtar and Minister Shevardnadze would be able to exchange views and information more profoundly. There is an indication that if properly negotiated Vietnam may be willing to complete the withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea before 1990, and agree with the participation of the Khmer Rouge without Pol Pot and his clique.

Moscow has indicated that it is interested in the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea so that it may be relieved from heavy financial and military commitment to Vietnam. This is inherent in its recent policy of glasnost and perestroika. The same reason has prompted Moscow to make a decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan this year as soon as possible, even within less than one year, if the coming resumed proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations yield agreement on the time frame of troops withdrawal and the composition and nature of Afghanistan administration after the withdrawal. It is apparent that the two superpowers are keen that the agreement will be reached. The attitude and cooperation of the two superpowers are decisive in achieving political settlement both in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. We trust that Minister Mokhtar will use all his diplomatic skill to induce Moscow to exercise its persuasive influence on the parties concerned so that the peace effort may get necessary fillip.

With regard to bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Moscow it is now an opportune time to be in Moscow, for Moscow seems to have decided from this year to make the promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Indonesia a cornerstone of its policy toward Jakarta. Besides, Moscow is undergoing a rapid change due to the process of comprehensive democratization (glasnost) and restructuring (perestroika).

Now foreign trade and economic cooperation can be handled not only through government agencies but also through private agencies and private businessmen. Deregulation and debureaucratization and change in societal structure are going on in the Soviet Union. The change will influence favourably the removal of psychological, physical, and procedural impediments that so far have been in the way of greater economic cooperation and the growth of a much larger volume of trade between the two countries.

As a matter of fact there is political will in the two countries to expand trade and economic cooperation between them. Especially Indonesia is looking for expanding its non-oil/gas market in the Soviet Union. But in spite of exchanging many trade and economic missions of high level and senior ministers and parliamentarians, the volume of trade and cooperation do not appreciably increase. Till recently the volume of trade between the two countries was still in the neighbourhood of US\$ 75 million heavily in favour of Indonesia.

At the moment an Indonesian trade mission is in Moscow.

The arrival of Minister Mokhtar will certainly strengthen the effort to increase trade and economic cooperation between the two countries by exploiting new avenues and openings provided by perestroika and glasnost.

So far we export to the Soviet Union traditional goods like palm oil, rubber, tea, spices etc. and import machinery and other industrial products. There is the need to diversify our trade and economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. Now we can export non-traditional goods like garments, electric appliances, batteries, tires and other industrial products. On the other hand, we must consider products and nuclear technology we need, as well as space communication facilities and unique industrial process available in the Soviet Union. This will increase the volume of trade and economic cooperation and correct the trade imbalance between the two countries.

British Aerospace Offers Joint Fighter Deal
*BK041325 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
 1200 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Britain has offered to build jointly with Indonesia Hawk HS-220 fighter planes for the Indonesian Armed Forces and Air Force.

Minister for Research and Technology Habibie disclosed this to reporters after accompanying the director of British Aerospace, (Raymond Leyton), to pay a courtesy call on President Suharto at the Bina Graha presidential office in Jakarta today. Habibie said the two sides had discussed manufacturing the fighter planes at the Nusantara Aviation Plant in Bandung, adding that the British group had also suggested the development of a new generation of fighter planes to follow the Hawk HS-220. British Aerospace also offered to have the Nusantara Aviation Plant produce component parts for Tornado fighter planes.

French Defense Official on Arms Package
*BK040519 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0440 GMT
 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Jakarta, February 3 (ANTARA/OANA)—France has offered Indonesia the opportunity to make various kinds of French military equipment at home through stages. French Junior Minister of Defense [title as received] Jacques Boyon said here Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after the conclusion of his meetings with Indonesian Minister of Defense and Security Poniman, Armed Forces Commander L.B. Murdani and Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Kasenda, Jaques Boyon said at present Indonesia is able to overhaul AMX-13 armoured cars.

He said it is line with an agreement reached with France when the Army chief of staff, Gen. Tri Sutrisno visited that country in 1987.

Boy on, who was accompanied by the French ambassador to Indonesia, Loic Hennekinne, said such a step could also be taken with regard to sea-to-sea missiles bought by the Indonesian Navy some time ago.

When asked on France's political requirement in the sale of military equipment, he said the buyer must be a friendly country, although the seller is a private company.

He said in promoting cooperation in the training of Indonesian Army officers, the French Government would accept Indonesian officers to study at its military college.

The French Armed Forces like to have officers such as those having the rank of captain to study there, aside from the officers of higher rank such as colonels, he said.

On the possibility of the purchase of military equipment by the Indonesian Navy, he said the French Navy is ready to sell its used ships at competitive prices.

As of 1988, officers of the two countries will have an annual meeting as realization of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1983 and 1985.

Laos

Radio Reports 4 Feb Downing of Thai Plane
*BK050034 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
 0000 GMT 5 Feb 88*

[Text] A report from the battlefield revealed that from 0600 to 1500 yesterday [4 February], the Thai reactionary troops launched massive assaults against positions of our troops in the vicinity of Na Bonoi canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. They fired over 1,000 artillery shells of different types and their infantrymen attacked our positions for 4 hours. Three F-5 aircraft indiscriminately dropped bombs in the area.

Our fraternal combatants and people in Boten District, unshaken by the rain of artillery shells and bombs, resolutely and strongly counterattacked them, inflicting heavy casualties and forcing them to retreat. They also gunned down one more warplane of the enemy.

The combatants and people of all races in the rear lines in all parts of the country wholeheartedly praised the achievements and majestic victories scored by our combatants and people in Boten District in counterattacking the mass offensive drives launched by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops since 1 February and firmly believe that with their revolutionary determination, self-confidence in overcoming all kinds of obstacles, and willingness to make every sacrifice, the armed forces and people of Boten District will continue to more painfully punish the warmongers who are trying to annex Lao territory and will staunchly defend their positions.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Thai 'Escalation'
BK051324 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[“Statement” of the LPDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued 5 February 1988 in Vientiane]

[Text] Following the Thai side's rejection of Laos' proposal for talks, on 1 February General Chawalit Yongchayut, Thai armed forces supreme commander and army commander in chief, stated that Thai troops would bring the battle to an end and drive all Lao troops out of the disputed areas in a few days. This announcement of the Thai side has been put into effect as can be seen by the fact that it has mobilized many troops from the 2d army region and the special forces from Lop Buri Province to join with the troops of the 3d army region in launching unprecedentedly large-scale attacks against Lao positions. These attacks were launched under the direct command of Gen Chawalit Yongchayut himself. In coordination with the said ground attacks, they sent many warplanes to indiscriminately strafe and bomb areas deep inside Lao territory, as a result of which (?a number of) innocent people, including the elderly, children, and pregnant women, were killed.

The situation has become more violent since the army commander in chief made his announcement. The actions of the Thai side are a serious escalation of the invasion and annexation of Lao territory, and mark a complete rejection to the Lao Government's proposal to send a delegation to Bangkok in early February for talks. This has greatly disappointed Thai and Lao public opinion as well as world opinion, because the activities of the Thai side run counter to the common trend toward talks to settle problems through peaceful means. Furthermore, along with the use of military measures, the Thai side has unilaterally closed the border in many provinces bordering Laos, restricting the exchange of visits for trade between the peoples living along the border, and thus seriously obstructing the daily contacts and normal relations between the peoples on either side of the border.

This clearly shows that the Thai side has no intention of meeting and holding talks with the Lao side and that it has all the time avoided the Lao side's proposal.

The LPDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs vehemently denounces this new act of the Thai side in escalating the invasion and annexation of Lao territory and demands that it immediately put an end to such acts in order to create favorable conditions for the settlement of the problem through talks. For its part, the Lao side is ready to respond in a creative way if the Thai side extends an official invitation. This consistent stand of the Lao side has once again been reiterated in a speech of Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered to the ordinary plenary session of the SPC on 2 February in which he said that the LPDR Government will try its best to settle the disputes with Thailand through talks in accordance with the principles stipulated in the two Lao-Thai joint statements of 1979.

The further escalation of the use of military force to attack and annex Lao territory is a very adventurous act. It will only bring great disaster to the two peoples of Laos and Thailand. It is absolutely not a path which will bring victory for the Thai side. The Lao people, being patriots who cherish peace, always want to encourage peace and want their country to be friendly with Thailand forever. Nevertheless, they cannot stay idly by and allow the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries to attack and seize even an inch of their beloved territory. The problem raised by their brutal and inhumane acts can only be settled through peaceful talks.

Vientiane, 5 February 1988.

More Demonstrations Demand Thai Withdrawal
BK041159 Vientiane KPL in English
0918 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 4 (OANA-KPL)—Demonstrators at meetings organized on February 2 in Champassak, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang provinces demanded the Thai ruling circles immediately put an end to all their military activities and to withdraw without delay and without all precondition all forces from Lao territory at Na Bonoi village, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, otherwise the Thai side will bear all consequences, the demonstrators insisted.

The meetings were held in support of the statement of the Lao Government of January 25 which aimed at solving the Lao-Thai border dispute by means of negotiations. The participants demanded that the Thai side take into consideration this matter and to positively respond to the Lao proposal for the interests of the Lao and Thai peoples.

Charge of Third Country Involvement Rejected
BK051113 Vientiane KPL in English
0909 GMT 5 Feb 88

[“Thai Accusation of Third Country To Hide Its Own Defeat”—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, February 5 (KPL)—Thai ultrarightist reactionary circles accused “third country” to take part in the armed conflict, caused by itself to hide its own

defeat in the attempt to aggress and annex Lao territory in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, says the main daily PASASON in a commentary published today.

"The two month long armed aggression against Na Bonoi village, Boten District, Sayaboury Province launched by Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops of the 3d Thai Army Region is intensifying day by day. By ignoring the appeals of Thai and Lao people as well as all the peace and justice loving peoples all over the world to peacefully settle the armed dispute by dialogue, Thai militarists made the case worse and worse. From using hundred shells and, the flight over the Lao territory by jet fighters-bombers and from using small units to take over Lao positions, they pound, at the present, up to 2000 heavy artillery shells, send up to 20 missions of air raids per day against the Lao territory—hundreds of infantry troops launched daily fierce attacks against various Lao positions. Hundreds of chemical shells including phosphorous, and fraction bombs and delay-action and time bombs were daily dropped over the Lao territory causing a lot of damage to the properties of the Lao people living in this area.

The paper continues:

"Despite all these mad efforts, the Thai reactionary troops could not occupy any new position nor reduce the firm determination of the Lao combatants and people in this region to use their legitimate defence rights. In contrary aggressor troops are fuming from a defeat to another while facing great human and material losses on the field.

Thai reactionary and militarist rulers have to use new arguments to justify their own defeat... Therefore comes the accusation of a "third country or countries". A regional Thai radio station "Sam Yot" even went further by claiming that Vietnamese and Cubans are taking part in the combat to back Lao troops. Everybody knows that all those accusations are groundless and even ridiculous but somehow it could reflect the thinking of pan-Thaist minded groups in Thailand toward Lao people. These people always treated Lao people as backward and barbarous, therefore, according to them, easy to aggress and to subjugate. When coming to the reality and having tasted the determination and patriotism of the regional armed forces and people of Boten District, those pan-Thaist minded people were electro-shocked and have to justify their nightmare with all kinds of mad arguments and lies.

"Neither barbarous and bloody intention of aggressors nor modern and mass extermination weapons could affect the determination of the Lao people to defend their fatherland given that they didn't aggress anybody else but only defend their own independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Justice will always be victorious."

Commentary Accuses Thailand of 'Provocation'
BK050955 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary: "Warmongering Path Should Not Be Followed"]

[Text] The serious incidents in the past and at present have been caused by Thailand, not by Laos or Vietnam. The reasons to substantiate this assumption are as follows: Laos, a small country with a population of over 3 million and a fairly large territory compared with its population, is facing difficulties in many areas and has suffered the consequences of war for 30 years. Therefore, peace and friendship with nearby and distant countries are vital for it. As for the Thai side, Thailand has consistently behaved in an unfriendly manner toward Laos. History clearly shows that a vast area of Lao territory and millions of Lao citizens have been taken by the Thai side. In the past 12 years since the formation of the LPDR, the Thai side has constantly been creating trouble for Laos. For example, military provocations have been regularly launched against Laos by the Thai Mekong River Patrol Unit all along the border. The Thai side unilaterally closes or opens border passes with Laos whenever they want. The Thai side itself has classified over 200 items of so-called strategic goods and banned their entry into Laos. At the same time, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have also nurtured, trained and armed displaced Lao persons and sent them together with Thai soldiers to disturb and sabotage the LPDR.

Another serious incident occurred in 1984 when the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops captured Laos' three hamlets of Mai, Kang, and Savang in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province. With the problem remaining unresolved, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have sent many troops to annex Lao territory west of Na Bonoi canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, thus sparking off the ongoing grave conflict between the two countries.

These actions of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries clearly prove that all the past serious incidents which have damaged Lao-Thai relations were caused by the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries. The Lao side has regularly proposed to the Thai side resolving problems at the root through peaceful means whenever incidents take place so as to create mutual trust and benefit genuine friendship and fraternal and good neighborly relations. The Thai side, however, has regularly turned down the Lao side's constructive and good intentions by raising all kinds of conditions to bargain with the Lao side. Because of this, the problems are exacerbated.

With regard to the seizure of Lao territory in the vicinity of Na Bonoi canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, where the situation has become highly tense, the Lao side proposed talks to settle the dispute right after the outbreak of the problem. The Thai side, however, created preconditions to avoid sitting down to talks.

With its good intention and adherence to the principle of settling problems through peaceful means, on 25 January the LPDR Government issued a statement reiterating its readiness to send a delegation to Bangkok for talks on relations between the two countries or to welcome a Thai delegation to Vientiane for the same purpose. The Thai ultrarightists have not only disregarded the proposed dialogue, but have even threatened Laos in various ways. For example, they mobilized hooligans to protest at the Lao embassy in Bangkok, threatened to close the border with Laos, and made groundless accusations against Vietnam—an old trick of theirs like the one used by adults to intimidate children.

Most serious, however, is the fact that the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries continue to further implement their pan-Thai policy of taking advantage of others, for they believe that Thailand is a big nation strong enough to bully smaller countries. They want to do whatever they like and are spoiling for a fight on the battlefield. All of this can be substantiated by the statement made on 2 February by the Thai army commander and acting supreme commander, to the effect that he would defeat the Lao troops as quickly as possible, probably in a day or two. However, he noted, if his plan failed it was proof that Laos was being supported by third countries. His statement indicates that he is still craving to wage a war and regards his country as a big brother and cannot stand to hear the word defeat. Feeling humiliated by his failure to drive Lao troops from Lao soil, he blustered and blamed third countries, as he always does.

The Thai army commander also said that Laos lacks a sense of humanitarianism and has escalated the fighting. His accusation is groundless. The fact is that the Thai side itself lacks humanitarianism and is responsible for the escalation of the fighting. The clear evidence to prove this is that on 1 February, Thai warplanes flew as many as 11 bombing sorties over Lao territory nearly 30 km from the border. They indiscriminately dropped cluster bombs and delayed action bombs on Lao soil. On 2 February, their aircraft flew four sorties to attack Lao territory beyond the area of fighting. They have also fired 130-mm shells indiscriminately into areas where there is no fighting.

So let us ask the question as to which side is right and which side is wrong. Clearly it is the Thai side which is escalating the fighting.

Laos is defending its cherished territory and has not expanded the fighting into Thai territory. On the contrary, Thailand is annexing Lao territory and sending its warplanes to threaten Laos deep inside the latter's territory. It is certain that the justice-loving people in Thailand and the world know who are the warmongers, who cherishes peace, and who is responsible for the destruction of Lao-Thai relations. The Thai side must immediately end its military adventure and stop interfering in the internal affairs of friendly countries, turning instead to talks to solve the problem through peaceful means.

In the modern era it is an obsolete practice to bully smaller countries and use military force to threaten other countries. Although this practice may be resorted to on certain occasions, justice will eventually win over injustice. Every deed will yield its result.

Khamtai Siphandon Receives Soviet Delegation
BK050949 Vientiane KPL in English
0903 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 5 (KPL)—General Khamtai Siphandon, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defence and commander-in-chief of the Lao People's Army on February 4 received here a high-level Soviet military delegation, led by Gen Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, member of the CPSU CC, member of the Supreme Soviet, head of the general commander of the USSR.

The two generals, on this occasion, discussed several issues relating to the two countries. Gen Khamtai Siphandon, on this occasion, highly assessed the present visit of the Soviet military delegation. The two delegations will exchange experiences and will study ways to improve party and political activities between the two armed forces.

The two leaders highly appreciated on this occasion the constant development of the great relations of friendship, all-round cooperation between the parties, governments and peoples as well as between armed forces of the two countries.

Earlier the Soviet delegation met a high-level Lao military delegation led by Major General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the LPRP CC, deputy-minister of defence and head of the General Political Department of the LPA.

In the morning of the same day the Soviet military delegation laid a wreath at the revolutionary memorial to pay tribute to those who had sacrificed for the Lao revolution.

In the evening Major Gen Osakan Thammatheva gave a reception here in the honour of the Soviet delegation.

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Cambodians
BK051041 Vientiane KPL in English
0900 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 5 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, acting-president of the republic and president of the Lao Front for National Construction, received here on February 4 a delegation of the Ministry of Propaganda and Culture of the P.R. of Kampuchea headed by its minister Chhen Phon who is also alternate member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea CC.

During the cordial and friendly talks, Phoumi Vongvichit hailed the visit of the Kampuchean delegation, describing it as an important contribution to further strengthening the cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the sphere of culture.

SPC Session Ends; Resolutions Issued
*BK050924 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
 1200 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] The annual ordinary plenary session for 1988 of the SPC closed with glorious success in Vientiane this afternoon after 3 days of work. Attending the closing ceremony were Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Souphanouvong, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee, president of the republic, and chairman of the SPC; and Phoumi Vongvichit, Phoun Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, and Sali Vongkhamsao, Political Bureau members of the party Central Committee and vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

At the final session of the plenum this afternoon, the participants unanimously approved resolution No 01/SPC/88 on the report on the review and assessment of the action program for 1987 and on the orientation for the 1988 action program of the SPC.

The resolution reads as follow: after hearing, studying, and exchanging views on the report on the review and assessment of the implementation of the action program for 1987 and the orientation for the action program for 1988 of the SPC as presented by the SPC Standing Committee, the ordinary plenary session for 1988 of the SPC, in its agenda on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 February 1988, decided on the following:

Article 1: approve, with pleasure, the report on the review and assessment of the implementation of the action program for 1987 of the SPC, and unanimously appraised the achievements scored by the SPC in performing its tasks.

Article 2: continue to successfully fulfill its historic tasks as entrusted by the national congress of representatives, namely the completion of the draft constitution, the enforcement of the election law, and the organizing of national elections of people's representatives to continuously pursue the cause of the SPC.

Article 3: assign the SPC Standing Committee to organize the glorious fulfillment of the action program for 1988 of the SPC.

On this occasion, the session also unanimously passed resolution No 02/SPC/88 on the report on the implementation of the state plan for 1987 and the orientation for the state plan for 1988, and the report on the implementation of the state budget for 1987 and the orientation for the budget for 1988.

The resolution reads as follow: after hearing, considering, and generally debating the report on the implementation of the 1987 state plan and the orientation for the 1988 state plan, and the report on the implementation of the budget for 1987 and the orientation for the 1988 budget as presented by the Council of Ministers, the ordinary plenary session of the SPC for 1988, in its agenda on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 February 1988, decided on the following:

Article 1: approve the said reports and assign the Council of Ministers of the LPDR to turn the said orientations for the various plans into concrete tasks in order to settle various weak points and remaining problems, guarantee the effective arrangements for the fulfillment of various objectives, tasks, and expectations of the 1988 plans, and strive to basically stabilize the state budget.

Article 2: wholeheartedly praise and hail the successes achieved in the past year by various branches, localities, grass roots, cadres, combatants, and laboring people of various tribes and express conviction that under the beacon of the resolutions of the Fourth LPRP Congress, with the new viewpoints, and with the determination to vigorously switch to the new mechanism in all branches, localities, and grass roots, the state plan for 1988 will be successfully fulfilled.

Afterwards, Sisomphon Lovansai, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee, vice chairman and acting chairman of the SPC, took the floor to deliver a speech marking the official closing of the session. He said: the annual ordinary plenary session for 1988 of the SPC proceeded energetically for 3 days in a bright and vital atmosphere marked by a high responsibility. Our session was honored and pleased to hear the spirit and contents of the report of the fifth plenary session of the Fourth LPRP Central Committee on the world, regional, and domestic situations, on the economic structure, and the implementation of the structure on the basis of the new viewpoints and new economic management mechanism of the party and state as presented by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers.

Our session studied, discussed, and approved unanimously a number of important documents presented by the Council of Ministers, namely the report on the implementation of the state plan for 1987 and on the state plan for 1988, the report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure plan of the state for 1987 and on the state budget plan for 1988. The session studied and reviewed the law on foreign investment and decrees of the Council of Ministers which have put the new economic viewpoints of our party and state into concrete measures. The session has approved the report on the implementation of tasks of the SPC for 1987 and the action program for 1988 as proposed by the SPC Standing Committee. The session has also approved the draft statement of this annual session.

Sisomphon Lovansai continued: I would like to praise and hail the spirit of revolutionary enthusiasm of all SPC members who have attentively studied, discussed, and contributed views, in a democratic manner, to the various documents of the party and decided to approve, in a high responsible manner, a number of important documents presented by the Council of Ministers.

I would like to express thanks to Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers, for reading the report himself to the session on this occasion. I thank all ministers from the various ministries concerned for giving further explanation on the implementation of political tasks in their respective ministries to our session on this occasion. I thank various vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers, ministers, chiefs of central party and mass organizations, and chairman of the Vientiane Municipal Administrative Committee for attending this session. I call on all SPC members to fully promote and expand their roles and responsibilities and join with the various branches, local administrations, and laboring people of various tribes in bringing into full play the spirit and contents of this session in their localities and offices in an ever more effective manner.

'Press Release' on Session
*BK041511 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[“Text” of 4 February “press release” issued in Vientiane by Supreme People’s Council on ordinary plenary session for 1988]

[Text] At a time when our entire party, army, and people are enthusiastically carrying out emulation campaigns to translate into reality the resolutions of the Fourth LPRP Congress, the annual ordinary plenary session for 1988 of the SPC was majestically held in Vientiane from 2 to 4 February in an energetic and active spirit marked by unique solidarity and high responsibility.

The SPC ordinary plenary session for 1988 was honored and pleased to hear and study the communique on the political report of the fifth session of the Fourth LPRP Central Committee on the world, regional, and domestic situations. The session heard reports on the economic structure of the country, the consolidation and perfection of various new economic policies of the party and state, the perfection of the new economic management mechanism of our state, and concrete measures to increase the efficiency of state, economic, and social management in our country in the new stage of revolution as presented by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers.

The SPC plenary session for 1988 also heard, studied, discussed, and approved a number of important documents of the Council of Ministers, namely the report on the implementation of the socioeconomic development

plan for 1987 and the draft plan for 1988, the report on the revenue and expenditure plan for the 1987 budget, and the report on orientations and expectations for the 1988 state budget. It discussed and contributed its views to the law on foreign investment in the LPDR and a number of policies on significant measures to improve economic relations and perfect the economic apparatus in the new stage.

Before discussing the aforesaid important documents, the session unanimously agreed that SPC members must concentrate all their intelligence and abilities on studying them so as to fully understand the contents of the documents and thereby achieve new viewpoints, allowing them to guide and encourage the laboring people of various tribes in translating into reality the spirit and contents of the documents.

The session voiced full support for the treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as signed between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. It also fully supported the serious attitude and the tireless efforts of the Soviet Union in the struggle to safeguard peace, reduce arms, prevent the expansion of nuclear weapons into space, and progress toward completely eliminating nuclear weapons in the interest of true peace and the security of all nations. The session expressed satisfaction over the initial but hopeful progress in the process of normalization of relations between the LPDR and the PRC, considering this as matching the aspirations of the peoples of Laos and China and a contribution to turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

The session expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the talks between Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, considering such talks an appropriate avenue by which to solve the Cambodian problem by political means in order to build an independent, peaceful, and nonaligned Cambodia.

The session unanimously praised and hailed the regional armed forces and laboring people of various tribes of Na Bonoi canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, for enhancing their patriotic traditions in heroically resisting the invasion and annexation by Thai troops to stalwartly defend the fatherland bequeathed them by their ancestors. The session completely supported the communique on Lao-Thai relations of the general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers and the LPDR government's just stand and appropriate statement of 25 January 1988 aimed at solving the problem of Lao-Thai relations through talks. The session unanimously agreed to forever maintain the time-honored traditional relations of fraternity between the peoples of Laos and Thailand, and called on the Thai people to support the Lao people in urging the present Thai militarist rulers to end their military adventures and turn to settling the current border dispute politically through talks. Only by

so doing can success be achieved in obstructing those designs which are not in conformity with the common international trend toward people throughout the world and in each region coexisting peacefully amid stability, friendship, and cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit and in accordance with the principles enshrined in the two Lao-Thai joint statements of 1979.

The SPC ordinary plenary session closed with a glorious success at 1700 on 4 February.

[Signed] The SPC

Vientiane, 4 February 1988.

Briefs

Soviet Party School Delegation

Vientiane, February 4 (KPL)—A session on cooperation between the party higher schools of the Lao PDR and the Soviet Union was held here on February 3. The two sides, led by their directors, exchanged experiences, discussed the exchange of teachers for the 1988-89 school year, and reviewed the results of their cooperation in the past. The delegation of the Moscow higher party school arrived here on February 2d and will spend a week in Laos. [Summary] *Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 4 Feb 88 BK*

Philippines

Military Operation Captures 20 Communists

HK041329 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Two top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philipines [CPP] and 18 other NPA members were arrested by the military in a swift counterinsurgency operation.

According to Armed Forces chief General Renato de Villa, captured were Tomas Dominado and Nicholas Ruiz who are said to be members of the CPP central committee. The central committee is the highest policy making body of the Communist Party of the Philippines and formulates the party's guidelines.

The 18 others arrested are either members of the NPA or the National Democratic Front.

General de Villa said the arrest of Dominado and Ruiz has broken the communication nerve center of the CPP in Manila.

The military had earlier announced that its priority now is to destroy the communist party's political structure.

De Villa stressed that the military was preparing charges against the rebels. Also confiscated was modern communications equipment.

Earlier today, the military also raided a house in Fairview, Quezon City, said to be a safehouse and medical center for communist rebels. In addition, authorities also raided a house in Cubao, Quezon City, believed to be a hideout for wounded NPA in the city.

The Fairview house, near the house of Western Police District superintendent Brigadier General Alfredo S. Lim, was empty at the time of the raid, while in the Cubao house, authorities confiscated hospital equipment, such as hospital beds, medicines, and medical kits as well as some subversive material.

Paper Reports Identities

HK050551 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 5 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Twenty people suspected to be ranking members of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army were captured in lightning raids in Metro Manila and nearby Laguna in the past 36 hours, the military announced last night.

The raids were conducted in seven homes tagged by the military as rebel "safehouses."

In a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo, Gen. Renato S. de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, said soldiers also dismantled two rebel "field hospitals" and captured computer-operated communications equipment and supplies.

At least six other people were arrested in the raids on the rebel hospitals. medical supplies were also seized.

"We have broken the communist communication nerve center in Metro Manila," De Villa said.

Asked if the communications equipment could have been used by the rebels in two recent broadcasts which the military believed were beamed from Metro Manila, de Villa replied: "Possible but not sure."

Among those captured were two alleged members of the CPP central committee, a priest who served as spokesman of the National Democratic Front in Central Visayas in the 1986 peace talks and the finance and political officers of the rebels' regional party committees in the Visayas and Bicol.

Their capture came a few days after De Villa vowed to "destroy the armed components of the insurgents."

The military identified those captured as:

—Fr. Nicolas Ruiz, CPP central committee member, head of the Visayas urban area bureau, member of NDF Visayas.

—Tomas Dominador Jr., alleged central committee member, head of the regional educational bureau of the Panay Island regional party committee [RPC] and head of the instructional bureau for Visayas Commission.

—Alberto David Jr., regular member of the national educational department, member of the Bicol regional party committee and member of the instructional bureau.

—Noli Giray Narca, member of the executive committee (Leyte Island regional party committee), head of the military staff for Leyte Island regional party committee, head of the military staff for Leyte Island RPC, NDF representative during the ceasefire.

—Fr. Rustico Tan, NDF negotiator for Central Visayas and member of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL).

—Veronica Parco, member of the national finance committee, wife of Visayas Commission Chairman Arturo Tabara and head of the finance staff of the Visayas Commission.

—Paterna Ruiz, Visayas finance staff member and wife of Fr. Ruiz.

—Lydia Narca, Visayas finance officer and wife of Noli Narca.

—Wilhelmina Balistoy, member of the Visayas finance staff and wife of Ruben Balistoy, chairman of the Samar Island regional party committee.

—Isidro Caballes, member, communication and electronics group, CPP central committee.

—Flordeliz Caballes, member, communication and electronics group.

—Efren Capillan, member, communication and electronics group.

—Nestor Nachura, special project section member, finance staff of the Visayas Commission.

—Yvette Nachura, special project member, finance staff, Visayas Commission.

—Rizaldy Gomia, member, communications and electronics group.

—Mercy Gomia, member, communications and electronics group.

—Teddy Medina, member, Armed City Partisan (ACP) unit for Negros Occidental, and bodyguard of Parco.

—Arnold Tabara, member of the ACP for Negros Occidental, brother-in-law of Parco.

—Flor Bayohan, member of the Visayas Commission support group.

—Randolfo Cortez, member of the Visayas Commission support group.

—De Villa said Dominado had an P80,000 price on his head; Ruiz and David, P75,000 each; Narca, P70,000; and the rest, P5,000 each.

The raids were staged by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] intelligence men and tactical units of the National Capital Region Defense Command and the PC Capcom [Capital Command] in BF Homes in Paranaque; Pacita Complex in San Pedro, Laguna; Zabarte Subdivision in Novaliches; Pilar Village in Las Pinas; San Francisco del Monte and Project 8 in Quezon City, and SSS Village in Marikina.

The communications equipment was seized in one [of] these raids.

Also raided were two homes serving as rebel hospitals located on Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, and in Fairview Subdivision, both in Quezon City.

"This is a serious blow to their (the rebels') organization," De Villa said of the raids. "This will cause a major destabilization within their organization and affect their effort to operate effectively in the city."

De Villa said he had formed a special legal task force, headed by the AFP judge advocate general, Brig. Gen. Manuel Casaclang, to prosecute the captured rebels. He will be assisted by the Department of Justice.

He said those captured were now under investigation at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFF) in Camp Aguinaldo.

Proper charges will be filed against them by government and military lawyers, he said.

De Villa assured the relatives of those captured that the detainees would be "taken care of."

He said military operating units were going after other CPP-NPA leaders believed still hiding in the metropolis.

Last Tuesday, the military identified at least 18 rebel safehouses in Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela, Caloocan City, Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong, Manila and Makati.

The following day, De Villa said the military had identified the leaders of the NPA hit squads in Metro Manila and efforts were under way "to get them."

The suspected rebel hospitals were raided Wednesday night and early yesterday morning.

Boxes of medicines, surgical equipment and medical instruments were seized.

These included medical accessories like dextrose bottles and syringes.

Subversive documents, including pictures and lists of prospective Sparrow targets, were also taken, the military said.

A Certain Regilinda Ryees, owner of the house raided in Cubao, was taken to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Tagig, for questioning. Her home was raided Wednesday night.

The other house serving as rebel hospital was on Paul Mall St., in Fairview. It was raided early yesterday morning. The place is reportedly near the house of Brig. Gen. Alfredo S. Lim, Western Police District Superintendent.

The raiding party discovered an oxygen tank, first aid kits and other medical paraphernalia.

Blood-stained cotton balls were seen in trash cans around the house.

A crate seized in one of the raids had the address of the Dutch Embassy in Manila and contained medical supplies which the military said were intended for communist guerrillas.

The wooden crate bore the black stencilled words "Royal Dutch Embassy" and other markings.

The military has often criticized the actions of a Netherlands-based fund-raising group linked to the CPP.

The Dutch Embassy denied any association with the crate, and a spokesman said he was seeking further details from the military.

Arrests Term 'Severe Blow'
HK050859 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT
5 Feb 88

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, Feb 5 (AFP)—The capture of 20 communist rebels and the discovery of their communications network dealt a severe blow to their planned major offensive this year, military officials and leftist sources said Friday.

The arrests came just two weeks after a top-level overhaul of the Armed Forces, which vowed to search and destroy the insurgency in 1988, which both sides consider a year of decisive confrontation.

"It's the biggest achievement in the history of anti-insurgency operations," Lieutenant Colonel Warlito Sayam, head of a unit responsible for the arrests, told journalists as he presented five of the detainees Friday.

President Corazon Aquino lauded the Armed Forces, particularly new chief of staff General Renato de Villa, for the raids, which she said "should answer once and for all the criticism that the government has no counter-insurgency program."

Sources close to the 20, captured in lightning raids in the capital and nearby Laguna province, said it was a serious tactical blow to the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New People's Army (NPA).

The captives include two alleged CPP central committee members and 18 others, many of them with prices on their heads.

The military also seized firearms and medical and radio equipment, including radio transceivers capable of sending and receiving international messages by satellite and an electro-cardiograph machine for detecting heart ailments.

"This has serious implications in the sense that this is their network in Manila and the communication system they set up has been dismantled," one source said. "Somebody probably confessed. There was a chain reaction."

Five of the detainees led by the two alleged central committee members, Tomas Dominado and Roman Catholic priest Nicolas Ruiz, were presented to the press at an army compound in suburban Manila.

An AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said the five wore fresh clothes and looked well-treated, but the military refused to allow interviews.

The military displayed the radio transceiver system, a personal computer, two M-14 assault rifles and one M-16 rifle, a .45 cal. pistol, hand grenades and documents seized during the raids.

Despite the tactical blow to the rebels, other sources said previous arrests of top CPP-NPA leaders had failed to stem the 19-year-old movement, and that other rebels would merely take the place of those arrested.

Armed Forces spokesman Captain Anselmo Cabingan said more arrests were expected from "hot pursuit" operations based on information from the 20. "From interrogation, one capture leads to another," he said.

The arrests came as the rebels were preparing to mount intensified armed and political operations this year in the capital.

NPA urban guerillas killed more than 100 policemen, soldiers and civilians in Manila last year and killed their fourth victim for 1988 when they shot dead a paramilitary sergeant in Valenzuela, a northern suburb, Thursday.

The official CPP organ THE NATION, written before Thursday's arrests, predicted a "strategic stalemate" stage with the government this year.

"Fresh developments point to an even more rapid advance of the national democratic revolution in 1988," said the January issue of THE NATION, which was sent to news agencies hours before the arrests.

"With conditions extremely favorable, the movement may well fulfill the overall requisites for the eventual leap of people's war to the next higher stage," it added.

The insurgency, founded on Maoist doctrine 19 years ago, is divided by the rebels into three major stages: the strategic defensive, the strategic stalemate, and the strategic offensive.

The CPP, which controls the 25,000-strong NPA, says it is currently in the transition from the defensive to the stalemate stage, in which rebel forces would confront government forces in larger numbers.

Meanwhile, in Pampanga province north of here, the military said three suspected NPA couriers were killed Thursday by a death squad belonging to remnants of the 1950's Huk movement, from which the NPA broke away in the late 1960's.

The killings occurred in San Luis town as an NPA team assassinated a policeman in another Pampanga town, Guagua. Both towns are located near the U.S. Clark Air Base.

The NPA assassinated two U.S. servicemen off Clark in October and vowed to hit more U.S. nationals this year in a bid to force Washington to end its military and economic support for Manila.

Aquino Commands Military
HK051349 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Malacanang has commended the Armed Forces for the capture of two high-ranking officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). In relation to this, the military said that the administration has adequate programs against the insurgents. Arrested in the raid conducted by the military were Nicolas Ruiz and Tomas Aguinado, plus 18 others, two of them ex-priests.

In a statement read by Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, the President has ordered that the rebels be given their full rights:

[Begin Benigno recording, in English] The arrest of the renowned members of the Communist Party of the Philippines in a series of military raids in Metro Manila should answer once and for all the criticism that the government has no counterinsurgency programs.

I am glad that AFP chief of staff General Renato De Villa has demonstrated to the nation through action what fighting insurgency is all about. He and his men are to be commended for ably carrying out their duties in safeguarding our newly restored democracy. I have given instructions to General De Villa to make sure that all the detainees are treated well, that they are adequately fed and sheltered, and given medical attention if need be.
[end recording]

Meanwhile, Benigno also announced that the two arrested ex-priests, Nicolas Ruiz and Rustico Tan, have been previously married and were disowned by their mother religious organizations. [passage indistinct]

Aquino Asks Islamic Body To Reject MNLF
HK041243 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0925 4 Feb 88

[Text] An official from Malacanang has said that approval of the MNLF's membership bid by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would pose a great threat to the country's stability, and cause the Mindanao problem to intensify, because the issue would draw international concern and involvement. He also said that the problem is a domestic one.

The government is not certain whether the MNLF's request will be accepted by the OIC. The president is not confident that the government's appeal will be heard, but she is hopeful that the MNLF will not be given the chance to acquire membership.

Mrs Aquino discussed the Mindanao issue with Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, Armed Forces Chief Renato de Villa, Crisis Committee Chairman Emanuel Soriano, and other leaders. The president said they are appealing to the OIC not to support the MNLF's membership bid. She also said that Mindanao's economic situation will be acted upon immediately. Here is the president:

[Begin recording, in English] We are appealing to the OIC, through some of our friends who are members of OIC, not to support the membership of the MNLF. At the same time, I am going to speed up economic development in Mindanao. This is also what the peace commission is setting out to do. By the middle of this month we will be announcing the members of the regional consultative commission, and outlining all the projects we have specifically programmed for Mindanao. [end recording]

Orders Development Program
HK041257 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] President Aquino today ordered the implementation of an extensive development program for Mindanao. Here is Sel Baesa for the full report:

[Begin recording] The president issued the order following a meeting with the peace commission. The peace commission had expressed concerns about possible trouble caused by members of the Moro National Liberation Front.

According to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, the president approved a P500 million budget for prompt implementation of a development program for Mindanao, notably in the depressed areas of Regions 9 and 12. The president also ordered Ramos to monitor and implement projects which will benefit not only the residents of Regions 9 and 12 but also those all over Mindanao.

According to Ramos, these projects include construction of a bridge linking Bongao with Sanga Sanga in Tawitawi and of a modern slaughterhouse in Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, the president is scheduled to meet with officials of agencies based in Mindanao tomorrow to discuss the prompt implementation of the program.

Sel Baesa, Bureau of Broadcast Services News, Malacanang. [end recording]

In related developments, President Aquino will go to Mindanao to launch the development program in that province. This was announced by National Crisis Commission chairman Emanuel Soriano following a meeting of the Peace Commission. Soriano did not give the date of the president's visit but said that it was likely to take place this month.

According to Soriano, the president will meet with officials of the departments of public works, health, education and agriculture to discuss the measures to be taken in conjunction with the development program.

Announces P1 Billion in Aid
HK050505 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has announced a massive livelihood program for the depressed Muslim regions of the country. The program is in line with the president's move to discourage the Islamic nations from granting exile status to the Muslim rebels. The government's aid program calls for an expenditure of P1 billion in the most depressed areas of southern Mindanao where some 5 million Muslim Filipinos live.

Meanwhile the MNLF has declared that it plans to become a member of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Plans To Visit Mindanao
HK040353 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0300 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos says Muslim rebels are continuing to build up their forces in the country. Despite reports of MNLF separatists regrouping and massing in certain areas, the president is scheduled to visit some parts of Mindanao on February 16. Ramos said the MNLF is smuggling weapons into the country and that some of their shipments have been intercepted by the Philippine Navy. He also said the long coastlines in the southern Philippines are making it difficult for the Navy to effectively monitor and intercept MNLF arms shipments.

Military Reports MNLF Arms Delivery
HK041311 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 4 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino appealed here Thursday to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to deny membership to Filipino Moslem separatist guerrillas.

The appeal came as security forces prepared for what they feared to be an impending offensive by the Moslem separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to dramatize its OIC membership bid.

The attacks were expected to take place before a scheduled OIC meeting in Jordan next month, military officials said.

"We are appealing to the OIC, through some of our friends who are members of OIC, not to support the membership of MNLF," Mrs Aquino told reporters at the presidential palace after meeting with top military officials on the Moro issue.

"I am not confident but I hope that they will not give membership to the MNLF," she said.

Armed Forces chief General Renato de Villa said after the meeting that the military had "no definite indications that they (the MNLF) are ready to assume attacks," but that security forces remained on guard in the Moslem-populated southern island of Mindanao, where the MNLF had waged a 15-year guerrilla campaign for a separate Moslem state.

Meanwhile, senior military sources in the south said Thursday that the MNLF landed large quantities of ammunition and new weaponry in three sites in Mindanao Tuesday.

The MNLF landed shipments of four to five crates each in two coastal areas in Zamboanga del Sur Province and a bay in the neighboring province of Lanao del Sur, a military commander who requested anonymity told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Pagadian City.

The shipments included Soviet-made MH-14 rapid-fire grenade launchers, AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition provided by Libya, the source said.

The MNLF said they were "prepared to fight the (Philippine) Armed Forces" in a statement sent to newsmen in the southern city of Pagadian Wednesday.

The MNLF entered into a ceasefire with the government last year but had been increasingly taking hostile action against the government and Christians in the south.

MNLF Denies Reports

HK051253 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 5 (AFP)—A spokesman for the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Friday denied military reports that the Filipino Moslem group was preparing to mount fresh offensives in the next few weeks.

MNLF spokesman Rey Ibrahim Uy denied in a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the MNLF would launch attacks to dramatize the Moro group's bid to gain membership of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The OIC meets next month in Jordan.

"All those provocative statements are not true. There is no basis at all for their claims," he said.

The statement came one day after President Corazon Aquino appealed to OIC members to deny full membership to the MNLF, which now has observer status.

Mr Uy also denied an earlier military report that the MNLF landed large quantities of ammunition and new weaponry in three sites in Mindanao, the arena of the 15-year old campaign for a separate state by the Filipino Moslem rebels.

He said that the MNLF "had no other recourse" but to seek membership of the OIC, especially after peace talks with the Aquino government collapsed last year, but was doing so through peaceful means.

Mr Uy said that once the OIC accepts the group's application, the MNLF will automatically become a "de-facto government" and will be able to "pursue its aspirations for independence in the United Nations."

Meanwhile, the ambassadors of 10 OIC-member nations told a press conference here Friday they had no knowledge of any MNLF bid to join the OIC.

Fuad Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, of Saudi Arabia, one of four nations that negotiated a settlement between the MNLF and Manila in 1976, said: "We are supporting a peaceful resolution in the conflict between the MNLF and the government."

However, he said this resolution would have to be in accordance with the 1976 "Tripoli agreement," which gives the Moslems autonomy even in provinces where they are in the minority.

Manila insists that any autonomy grant be in accordance with the newly-ratified constitution which requires that residents vote for autonomy in a plebiscite. The MNLF refuses to recognize the constitution.

At the same forum, Libyan Ambassador Salim Adem denied military reports that the Libyans are sending arms shipments to the MNLF.

Ramos Assesses Current Security Situation

HK0041504 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 4 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[By Cesar M. Espino]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos admitted yesterday that the security situation in the country was "not very good" although the military has been inflicting more casualties on the communist rebels.

His admission came a day after Gen. Renato S. de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said the New People's Army is now 25,000-strong. Hours earlier, Armed Forces spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo stuck to military claims that the NPA only had 23,000 men—15,000-16,000 of whom are fully-armed regulars.

The security situation, Ramos said in reply to a question at a press conference, "is still not very good. It is very bad in some places, but it is improving in many places."

But he added that he expects the situation to improve after the last phase of the local elections this month. The final phase of the Jan. 18 polls will be the elections in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu on Feb. 8 and Feb. 15, respectively.

De Villa, for his part, said that despite the reported massing of communist urban guerillas in Metro Manila, there is "no way" they can fight openly in the streets.

"We will annihilate them if they come out in the open. No way can they do that," de Villa said.

He also said the military has identified the leader of the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB] a unit of New People's Army urban guerillas, nicknamed Sparrows, operating in Metro Manila. The ABB has claimed responsibility for the killing of some 150 soldiers and policemen in a series of ambushes last year.

De Villa downplayed the military's own account of the number of Sparrows in the metropolis.

"The presence of liquidation teams in Metro Manila maybe 100 now, 20 tomorrow or 200 the next day. What happened in Metro Manila is that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NPA made it an open city for all units of the NPA and, therefore, people from the provinces come and go," he said.

De Villa added that the rebels mostly come from Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan, in the north, and Quezon in the south.

The military Tuesday said it had pinpointed 19 areas in the metropolis being used by the Sparrows as "nests," but did not say whether they had moved to confirm rebel presence in those areas.

Ramos said the government is working hard to complete the setting up of Peace and Order councils in the provincial and municipal levels. The councils will oversee civilian participation in the counterinsurgency drive.

Ramos said that military approach alone can not solve the 20-year-old communist insurgency. He said the government will need a "total approach" that must include all sectors of society.

Once all the government agencies involved are in place, Ramos said, the country can expect more results.

"We are about ready to go all out, although we have gone all out in some places," Ramos said, apparently referring to areas where there are working Peace and Order councils.

Ramos said the military has responded vigorously to President Aquino's call for an intensification of the offensive against the rebels.

Citing a report from the defense department's operations monitoring center. Ramos said there were 196 insurgency-related violent incidents in January, 125 of which were initiated by the military.

He said the clashes resulted in the death of 168 rebels. Soldiers suffered 61 killed during the same period.

The report said that Bicol, where rebels scored against the government last year, registered the most number of insurgency-related incidents last month. Ramos said of the 34 incidents that occurred in that region in January, 28 were initiated by the government and only six by the rebels.

Says 179 Guerillas Killed

BK040349 Manila PNA in English 0330 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 4 (PNA-OANA)—Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos today said the military's all-out offensive against rebel forces gained headway with the killing of 179 guerrillas in 123 [as received] government-initiated combat operations last month.

During the same period, 61 government troopers (soldiers, policemen and militiamen) were killed and 107 others wounded, Ramos said.

Of the 179 rebel fatalities, 168 were from the New People's Army while nine were members of the separatists Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). [numbers as received]

Ramos noted that of the 196 incidents last month, 124 [as received] were initiated by the government forces, a reversal of previous trends.

Before President Aquino gave the go-signal for an all-out war against the NPA, the guerillas usually took the initiative in launching attacks.

During a press conference at the Department of National Defense in Camp Aguinaldo, Ramos said that the thousands of troops released from election duty will be fully utilized in hunting down NPA rebels in the jungles and mountainous areas of the country.

Ramos assured that the military will be given all the needed support to sustain the combat operations in the coming months.

He also said that:

—The government will monitor the performance of left-leaning candidates who won in the Jan. 18 elections, but they will be given all the chances to prove their worth;

—The government will coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs before launching a diplomatic protest on the actuations of Luis Jalandoni, a former Filipino priest turned Dutch citizen, who is soliciting funds abroad for the NPA;

—The communist threat to assassinate U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt is serious, but the government has already taken counteractions;

—The peace and order councils in every province, city and town should now function to help the government in fighting the insurgency;

—The peace and order condition in some parts of the country is not good, although it has improved in some areas.

Rebel Casualties Reported
HK040831 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 4 Feb 88 p 2

[by staff writer Dionisio Pelayo]

[Text] Communist rebels suffered heavy casualties last month in the hands of government forces.

Figures released yesterday by the defense department showed there were 196 insurgency-related violent incidents last month, in which 168 New People's Army rebels and 61 troopers were killed. Nine Moro National Liberation Front rebels were slain.

The NPA rebels liquidated 30 civilians.

Of the 196 insurgency-related violent incidents reported in January, 125 were initiated by government forces, 69 by communist guerrillas, and only two by the separatist MNLF.

The wounded included 107 government forces, 21 NPA rebels, and 40 civilians.

At least 47 rebels were captured.

The government lost 68 firearms to the rebels, but captured 136, including six two-way radio sets of which they lost six to the rebels. [sentence as published]

The government's reconciliation efforts resulted in the surrender of 75 rebels who turned in 14 firearms.

The PC regioned command in Bicol notched the highest number of government initiated incidents as well as rebels killed with 28 incidents resulting in the killing of 27 rebels, wounding of 16, and capture of 13.

Government forces in Bicol suffered two casualties and three wounded.

Rebels initiated six violent incidents in the region.

Government forces in Bicol also received 31 surrenders during the month.

On the other hand, rebels in Cagayan Valley went on a rampage as they staged eight raids and five ambushes, compared to only 12 encounters and one raid initiated by government forces.

Thirty-two government forces were killed and 19 were wounded in Cagayan Valley, while 39 rebels were killed and 10 were captured.

Cardinal Sin Claims Church Group Aided Rebels
HK050313 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Cardinal Jaime Sin disclosed yesterday [4 February] that communist rebels have been receiving money from European countries through an office run by the Roman Catholic Church. Sin told a foreign correspondents' forum that the Philippine bishops have decided to dissolve their social action arm, the National Secretariat of Social Action [NSSA], because it was highly infiltrated. He said NSSA staffers were investigated last year, following reports that funds from West Germany, the Netherlands, and other European countries sent to NASA for social action projects, were instead being used to buy weapons and to develop the New People's Army. He also charged that the Task Force Detainees group was infiltrated. He added that other governments are trying to use the Task Force to downgrade President Aquino's government.

Comments on U.S. Bases Issue
HK051045 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 5 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Jaime Cardinal Sin said yesterday he had complained to American senators and congressmen who visited the country recently that U.S. government had been paying the Philippines a "meager amount of rental" for the maintenance of its military bases here and ought to increase the compensation.

"I told them the U.S. bases is not really a problem," Sin said. "The problem is the amount of rental (the Americans) are giving the country because it is very meager."

Sin made these comments when interviewed by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

In an emotional tone, Sin said he told the solons including Rep. Stephen Solarz (Democrat, New York), that while the U.S. was giving Israel \$5 billion a year "without even talking" it had not been able to deliver some \$300 million it promised to President Aquino.

"We are a little bit resentful because it seems America is taking us for granted," he said. "But in spite of our poverty, we have our human dignity."

Sin said he asked the senators to "please tell the White House about my feelings."

Sin would not state categorically his position on whether the U.S. bases here should stay after 1991, but expressed the belief that "we have no problem of nuclear weapons here."

Local and international anti-nuclear groups have claimed many times that the U.S. stores nuclear weapons in the bases at Subic and Clark and that nuclear-powered or nuclear-laden ships and aircraft pass every now and then through Philippine territory in violation of a national policy laid down in the new Constitution.

The U.S. has adopted a policy of neither confirming or denying the presence of nuclear weapons here.

The Philippine panel is expected to discuss the "impact" of the anti-nuclear provision in the Constitution during the forthcoming review of the military bases agreement this year.

Sin evaded the question of whether the country's Catholic bishops would issue a pastoral letter or statement on the bases question.

There is talk, however, that the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), which had issued pastoral letters on crucial issues affecting the nation, would take a position on the controversial bases issue.

Last year American Catholic bishops issued a statement urging the removal of the U.S. bases and facilities here and questioning the morality of the storage of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Sin branded as "not well founded" allegations of human rights abuses by the military put forward by the church-based Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFD) which he claimed was being funded by "other governments to downgrade the (Aquino) Government."

Sin also said the CBCP, in its annual meeting last week, dissolved the church-based National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) after it was found to be "highly infiltrated" by communists.

Sin could not cite any proof that the TFD was funded by "other governments" except to say "that is my belief."

Many of the TFD's reports, Sin said, "are not true."

Under the Marcos regime, the church had cited as credible TFD reports on alleged human rights abuses committed by the military.

"There are killings, but they are not imposed by the (Aquino) Government," he said. "Until now I can't find anybody who was imprisoned by this new Government without proper accusation and sentence from the courts."

Sin said he was not defending the Aquino government but was merely trying to be "fair."

Aquino To Address ILO Meeting in Geneva
BK040539 Manila PNA in English 0446 GMT
4 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb. 4 (PNA-OANA)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino is scheduled to visit Geneva, Switzerland in June this year to address the 75th International Labor Organization (ILO) Conference there.

Labor Secretary Franklin M. Drilon said the president has accepted the invitation of Director-General Francis Blanchard.

The visit would be Aquino's first to Europe since becoming president on Feb. 25, 1986. The president was to visit Italy last year for the canonization of the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, but the trip was cancelled because of the political turmoil triggered by the failed Aug. 28 coup attempt.

The ILO will be in session from June 1 to 22. President Aquino is scheduled to speak before the gathering of 150 member countries on June 14. Her fellow guest at the ILO conference will be Spanish President Felipe Gonzales, the Philippine labor secretary said.

He said ILO has kept a close watch on the measures taken by the Aquino administration in restoring workers rights and its emphasis on tripartite consultations.

Unions Denounce Aquino
HK050433 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT
5 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 5 (AFP)—Left-wing Philippine trade unions Friday denounced President Corazon Aquino for accepting an invitation to address the International Labour Organization (ILO) conference in Geneva next June.

"The basic failure of the government of Mrs. Aquino is the restoration of workers' rights," Crispin Beltran, chairman of the May First Movement (KMU), said in a press statement calling for radical reforms in industrial relations.

He said Mrs. Aquino's "record of trade union rights repression surpassed" that of former President Ferdinand Marcos, who was toppled by a popular revolt two years ago.

The KMU, which denies government charges of links with communist rebels, said 16 of its members had been summarily executed, three others were missing and 55 had been injured in police and military crackdowns in the first six months of 1987. It gave no figures for the Marcos period.

The release of the KMU statement coincided with the appearance of a newspaper article written by labour expert Antonio Nieva, who said trade unionists were turning more to consultation with management and government, rather than resorting to strikes.

Mr. Nieva, who is associated with the left-wing labour movement, said strikes decreased by 27.5 per cent in 1987 compared to the year before.

"From its seemingly anarchic muscle-flexing at the end of the Marcos regime, an exercise that proved bruising for both labour and capital, the Filipino trade union movement is now moving toward pragmatism... as it comes to terms with realities," he wrote in the MANILA BULLETIN newspaper.

Economists and officials expect a boom year in 1988 due to political stability, increased investments and improved labour relations.

Aquino May Consider Other Comelec Nominees
BK041405 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] President Aquino is prepared to give consideration to other nominations by the Senate and the Lower House if her nominations for the Commission on Elections should be rejected by the Commission on Appointments.

Here is Jojo Ismael with the full details:

[Begin recording] Senator Ernesto Macea said he spoke with Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig who indicated that the president might consider the nominations provided by Congress. However, it was also learned that the President will not change her nominees until after the Commission on Appointments make its decision.

Meanwhile, Senator Edgardo Angara said the president may nominate a Muslim to represent Muslim voters in the poll body.

The Bureau of Broadcast Services News also learned that the Muslim senators, Santanina Rasul and Mamintal Tamano, may veto Malacanang's nominations if a Muslim is not nominated to the Commission on Elections.
[end recording]

Thailand

Chawalit, Prasong Confirm Jet Downed by Laos
BK041301 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Speaking to correspondents about the progress of Thai soldiers operating at Ban Romkla in Phitsanulok Province, the Army commander, General Chawalit Yongchayut, said Thai troops have been steadily driving out the Lao soldiers. Following the order for drastic

operations, the past 2 days of fighting have enabled our troops to retake most areas. There remains one last target: Hill 1428, where the terrain is very difficult. Thai soldiers must scale sheer cliffs and contend with grenades dropped by Lao soldiers from above.

Chawalit said this morning that Thai planes bombed Hill 1428, but the enemy possessed greater firepower. The Laos were using a modern air defense system, firing barrages of 8 to 15 rounds at a time. SAM-7's and SAM-4's were used. Between 0700 and 0720, an enemy missile struck an F-5E. The pilot ejected safely and the plane crashed in Thai territory about 10 km from Ban Romkla. The air force commander has already visited the area.

Chawalit said Thai forces remain on the offensive and are advancing toward the target, which they will soon be able to take. Their morale is very good. Although Lao soldiers have fought tenaciously, Thai operations have inflicted severe losses on the Lao forces. Thai forces will increase the intensity of the battle if the fighting continues.

Asked if there are indications that Laos will commit acts of aggression at other points on the common border, Chawalit said that depends on Laos. He went on to say that if Thailand's patience runs out, however, Laos cannot accuse Thailand of aggression, because Laos has been the aggressor thus far. Asked if the battle's intensity will increase if Thai soldiers lose patience, Chawalit said there has been much talk about this, but Thais must behave like gentlemen. He added that in battle Thais must fight like gentlemen, secure in the knowledge that they neither started the conflict nor acted belligerently.

Meanwhile, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, secretary to the prime minister, reported to correspondents this afternoon that Prime Minister Gen Prem was informed by Gen Chawalit of the downing of the Air Force's F-5E. The prime minister did not issue any special orders because the military has complete responsibility in the matter and the Army commander is authorized to take whatever action is necessary. Asked if the prime minister plans more visits to the troops, Prasong said the prime minister has not mentioned it. Asked if the situation is likely to become more intense, Prasong said he could not say anything, because that is up to the military. He said the National Security Council is still considering the issue of Lao border crossing points because the matter requires thorough study. The council has been asked to consider all aspects before making a decision.

Protest Lodged With UN
BK050049 Bangkok THE NATION in English
5 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Laotian troops yesterday shot down a Thai Air Force F-5E jet fighter-bomber and Thailand quickly registered a protest with the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila told reporters after returning from a visit to Kuala Lumpur last night that the Security Council has been notified of the Laotian action.

Bangkok hinted that Vietnam was directly involved in the attack as battles escalated over the disputed border area near Phitsanulok Province

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat Aphichari, Air Force commander-in-chief, said a Laotian surface-to-air missile hit one of four Thai planes on an attack mission, while the others returned safely to their base.

The pilot, Squadron Leader Surasak Bunprempai, ejected and parachuted to safety, he said.

Woranat said the Laotians fired three heat-seeking missiles at the ill-fated jet while it was flying about 10,000 feet over a Laotian position on Hill 1428.

He said the pilot could not control the aircraft, whose hydraulic equipment was badly damaged.

It later went down near Na Charoen Village in Na Haeo District of Loei, about 15 kilometres from the embattled border, said Woranat.

The crash site was about 4 kilometres northwest of Romklao Village, claimed by both Thailand and Laos, he added.

Military officials speculated that the jet had been hit by a SAM-4 missile, or a medium- to high-altitude SAM-6, both of which can be launched from a tracked carrier.

During the Thai Air Force strikes, Laotian troops fired hundreds of missiles at the planes, said Woranat, adding that bad weather also obstructed the air operations yesterday. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Lao Border To Remain Open
BK050059 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
5 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Thailand will not close border checkpoints with Laos because the Government considers Lao citizens to be friends of Thailand, Interior Minister Prachuap Suntharangkun said yesterday.

However, he said if strategic goods are sent across the border to assist troops fighting in the disputed area, the Government will reconsider its stand on the checkpoints.

National Security Council chief Suwit Sutthanukun said no final decision has been made, adding that another meeting is to be held on the issue before any action is taken.

Meanwhile, a report from Nong Khai said Second Army Region commander Itsaraphong Nunphakdi telephoned Governor Santi Manikan asking him to close the checkpoints.

The checkpoints at Tha Sadet and at the ferry truck crossing remained open yesterday.

Prem Urges Public Understanding of Border Issue
BK050840 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon spoke to reporters at Government House this morning about the fighting in Ban Romklao. He said that he wants the people to be aware that all those involved are doing their best to defend the country's sovereignty. The prime minister wants all Thais to understand that we are defending our territory, something we must do and must do successfully. What Thailand is doing is correct. The evidence, maps, and facts all prove that Thailand is not the aggressor.

The prime minister said that if Ban Romklao belonged to Laos, he would not take any action. However, the area belongs to Thailand and was passed down to us by our ancestors. It is our legitimate property, which we must protect. Therefore, he wants all Thais to understand the issue.

The Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry are working together to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities, and will succeed within a few days.

The prime minister stressed that he has followed reports on the situation day and night. He is especially interested in this matter since it is a national issue and cannot be ignored. We must drive the intruders out of our territory. In fighting, it is normal to experience some casualties. It is more important for us to make the world understand that we are doing the right thing. He asked the media and all Thais to help publicize this view, which is correct.

Asked if the border with Laos will be closed, the prime minister replied that we have no plans to do so. After all, we do not want to do anything that will affect the Lao people despite the fact that Lao authorities have taken inappropriate actions against Thailand.

Paper Cites Soviet 'Hypocrisy' on Lao Dispute
BK050115 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
5 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Hypocrisy Won't Silence the Guns"]

[Text] Moscow's appeal to Thailand to enter into peace talks with Laos to resolve the current bloody border dispute over Ban Romklao is, on the surface, logical,

timely and commendable. This "advice" also contained the warning that continuation of the conflict might worsen the situation in the whole Southeast Asian region.

Well-intentioned as all this sounds, the Kremlin's sincerity in making such fine-sounding "appeals" is brought into doubt by the militant role it is playing in this region.

As has already been made clear, it has always been the genuine desire and intention of Thailand to resolve any conflicts with neighbouring countries, particularly Laos, through peaceful means. This spirit was clearly stipulated in the joint communique signed in 1978 between former Thai prime minister Kriangsak Chamanan and his Lao counterpart, Kaysone Phomvihan.

Unfortunately, the spirit of the communique has, time and again, been soured by the Lao Government—undoubtedly at the prodding or instigation of a "third party" which wields considerable influence over the thinking of the present Vientiane leadership and which sees the fraternal relationship between the Thai and Lao peoples as a major threat to its true design in this region.

The sudden outbreak of hostilities in the Ban Romkao area perpetrated by the Lao forces and Vientiane's intransigence in refusing to withdraw its forces from Thai territory and come to the negotiating table are uncharacteristic of the Lao people. The action also makes a mockery of the spirit of the joint communique, signed and persistently referred to by Laos as a token of good faith. Ever since the conflict blew up into open warfare in mid-December, both Thailand and Laos have sustained considerable losses in human life and properties which could have, otherwise, been saved and utilised for constructive purposes for both countries.

If Moscow is truly sincere in its stated desire to see peace being restored to this region and in projecting the image of a peace-loving country, it should be using its influence to the full to bring Laos to the negotiating table and also to apply pressure on its proxy—Vietnam—to end its hostility towards Thailand.

As evidenced by the unprecedented massive firepower unleashed from the Lao side in the Ban Romkao conflict, there can no longer be any doubt that the protagonists mounting the war effort extend far beyond mere Lao forces. The strategy and tactics being used bear the all-too-familiar stamp of Vietnam up to its warmongering tricks again.

All the ammunition, landmines and weaponry used to kill and maim our defenders and civilians are identical in nature to that used by invading Vietnamese forces in the Chong Bok fighting, right down to the distinctive "made in the USSR" trademark.

Anyone can preach peace. But peace cannot be attained through mere words, but only through deeds—deeds which are undertaken with sincerity and a genuine desire to resolve a conflict through negotiations. Pouring arms and ammunition into prolonging the war effort in Laos while openly advocating peace cannot by any stretch of the imagination be interpreted as the act of a peace-loving country.

Thailand strongly stands by the spirit of the joint communique and genuinely desires peace, but not at the cost of ceding even a single piece of territory to invading foreign forces.

Lao Charge on Movement of Hmong People Denied
BK031531 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] According to the Foreign Ministry, the Lao Foreign Ministry has summoned the representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to Laos. The representative was told that Thai authorities had forced a group of armed Hmong people to move from Pak Chom and Ban Winai Districts of Loei Province to Ban Romkao. The Thai Foreign Ministry denies the Lao accusation as totally unfounded. This Lao charge has once again shown the world that, apart from using distortion in its dealings with Thailand, Laos lacks any sincerity in normalizing relations between the two countries.



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DATE FILMED

8 Feb. 1988

